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Pakistani Envoy Supports 'Effective Action' in B-H

BK1502043894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Pakistan has strongly supported solid and effective action in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including the use of force, especially air strikes, to implement the UN Security Council decisions on Bosnia. In his speech during the debate on Bosnia, which began at the UN Security Council last night, Pakistan's deputy ambassador at the United Nations, Sher Afghan, said in effective terms that those who do not fulfill their responsibility to prevent the aggression against Bosnia will be remembered in history as supporters of the aggressive Serb forces. He said only by complete use of force, especially by air strikes, can the Serbs be forced to implement the Security Council resolutions. In this regard, significant moral, political, and legal responsibility rest with those powers, who have the necessary resources to get the relevant Security Council resolutions implemented.

Sher Afghan said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Turkish Prime Minister Madam Tansu Ciller visited Sarajevo on 2 February, which reflects their concern about the struggle of the people and the government in Bosnia. On this occasion, both the prime ministers urged the international community to protect the sovereignty, solidarity, regional security, and political independence of Bosnia and to take effective steps to prevent genocide. He said Pakistan strongly believes that inaction against the aggressors is tantamount to justifying aggression and hence in Pakistan's view, the establishment of peace in the besieged country is the combined responsibility of the entire international community. The Pakistani representative said the massacres and annihilation, along with the destruction and devastation committed by the Serbian forces in Bosnia has reached such an extent that now, there is no other choice than to take joint action at a global level. The Pakistani representative added that the arms embargo against Bosnia is against the UN Charter which has deprived the country, which has been the victim of aggression, of its legitimate right to its own defense.

Sher Afghan expressed the hope that the international tribunal will soon begin its hearing on the cases against the perpetrators of brutal crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Pakistan's Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has already pledged $1 million for the expenses of the tribunal. Sher Afghan said the international community should pay similar attention to the security of the civilian population in all the safe havens declared by the United Nations and other cities and towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Voicing full support once again for the principled stand of the Bosnian Government, the Pakistani representative said its constructive and flexible tendency at the talks are praiseworthy.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-PLO Negotiations Resume in Taba

Qurayʻ Comments on Accord

NC1402135494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Israeli-PLO talks on the implementation of the self-rule plan in Gaza and Jericho resumed in Taba today. Disputed security issues were settled by the agreement the two sides signed in Cairo last week.

Ahmad Qurayʻ, Fatah Central Committee member and a key Palestinian negotiator, said the Cairo agreement is a genuine translation of the Oslo accord. What we have reached on the border crossings, he said, was even better than what was reached in Oslo. He noted that the Israelis agreed that the Palestinian flag be raised over the crossings.

Israel's Shahaq Comments

NC1402152794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 14 Feb (MENA)—General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks with the Palestinians, has said that the recently initialed Cairo agreement between the two sides has made things easier for the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators. The agreement established a broad base for us to build on, he said.

Shahaq was speaking after the morning session of talks in Taba. He said that a number of security issues were discussed, including the formation, responsibilities, and mission of the Palestinian police force. He said this subject will be discussed further during the negotiations, which will continue for a week.

Shahaq said the Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Affairs Committee will begin meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, until Thursday.

He said the committee will discuss Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. This subject, he added, was discussed in the early rounds of the Taba talks, and will be completed in the current round.

Shahaq said the negotiations agenda was changed because of the month of Ramadan.

MENA has learned that tomorrow's session will be held from 0800 to 1400, and will resume from 2000 to 2200 Cairo time.

General Shahaq and Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th first held a private meeting. The two delegations then held an expanded meeting. Absent from the talks today were lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Civilian Affairs Committee, and Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli delegation to the same committee. Al-Tarifi will arrive in Taba this evening.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations held a second session of talks in Taba this afternoon; it is expected to continue until just before iftar [breaking of the fast], when the Israeli delegation will leave Taba for Israel.

Sha'th Notes 'Positive' Climate

NC1402222094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Taba, 14 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations regarding the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, described the first day of negotiations as positive. He said that the Cairo agreement of 9 February helped to make today's negotiations positive.

In statements he made to correspondents at the conclusion of the second negotiating session today, Dr. Sha'th said that they discussed the tasks, number, and deployment of the Palestinian police in the areas from which the Israeli forces will withdraw. Sha'th refused to specify the size of the Palestinian force that the Palestinian delegation is asking to be deployed in Gaza and Jericho, noting that the Palestinian delegation had submitted a number of questions to the Israeli delegation and it is waiting for answers to them. The Israeli delegation also submitted a number of questions and is waiting to receive the answers to them.

Official Palestinian sources said that these questions pertain to the types of weapons that will be supplied to the police forces, the [words indistinct] in the various areas, and everything pertaining to the maintenance of security in the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th emphasized the need to reach agreement on the structure and number of the Palestinian police force, because there are many issues that must be dealt with. He noted that the entry of the Palestinian police into the Palestinian self-rule areas must precede the Israeli withdrawal and not come after it in order not to create a security vacuum in these areas.

The head of the Palestinian delegation said that they also discussed issues pertaining to Palestinian-Israeli coordination and cooperation in the security sphere.

Sha'th added that the two delegations have began drafting the general agreement that will be signed by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo. He affirmed that no specific problems emerged during today's two sessions, and that there was general progress.

Regarding the issue of the Palestinian detainees, Sha'th said that this issue was not discussed today because not all the members of the Palestinian delegation were present. He indicated that it will be discussed at tomorrow's session.

Asked about a timetable for the release of the Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons, Sha'th emphasized that a final agreement will not be signed before a timetable is prepared for the release of all the detainees, including those who belong to Hamas. The head of the Palestinian delegation explained that all the detainees will be released in stages until next July. [passage omitted]

Sha'th said that the final size of the Jericho area will be discussed at the next meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin, noting that the Palestinians expressed reservations regarding the maps pertaining to the Jericho area when they were signed in Cairo.

The head of the Palestinian delegation added that an era of peace has begun, and all the problems pertaining to Israel's security fears must end, because when war ends, peace must begin. [passage omitted]

Sha'th expressed the hope that the negotiations will be concluded during the month of Ramadan, noting that the delay that occurred in the past two weeks was political and not procedural.

Asked whether the negotiations will be held in Cairo or Taba next week, Sha'th said that they have not discussed this issue yet.

It has been learned that the Palestinian delegation wants the meetings to be held alternatively in Taba and Cairo while the Israeli delegation wants the negotiations to take place either in Taba or Alexandria, but not in Cairo.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Monetary Fund Official on Cooperation With Israel

NC1102183894 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 11 (AFP)—Arab states should map out a strategy to prepare for economic cooperation with Israel when they reach a comprehensive peace settlement, a top Arab economic official said in a magazine interview Friday [11 February].

Jassim al-Manai, chairman-designate of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), said economic ties hinged on the political relationship between the two sides after they end hostility.

"It is difficult now to speculate about the role which Israel will play or how Arab countries will build their relations with Israel and what is the shape of this relationship. But such a relationship should be satisfactory for all parties," he told the United Arab Emirates magazine Al-Shuruq.

"All this depends on the strategy of Arab countries after the establishment of peace and their ability to benefit from that relationship," he added. "There should be a new Arab concept to work from now to benefit from the coming stage in coordination with the Arab League."

Arabs have voiced fears economic integration with Israel will enable it to dominate their economies given its superior industrial power at a time when they are striving to boost their industries to tackle their economic woes.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has proposed a Middle East common market as a measure to boost confidence among the parties involved and achieve prosperity in the volatile but rich region.

Talk about a common market intensified after Israel and Palestinians signed an autonomy agreement in Washington on September 13. Syria and Jordan have also been involved in peace negoitations with the Israelis.

But despite the progress, Arab governments have resisted pressure from the United States and its western allies to end a 40-year old economic boycott against the Jewish State, arguing the ban would be lifted only when Israel withdraws from the occupied territories.

Egypt, tied with Israel in a 15-year old peace treaty, is the only Arab nation to have officially lifted the boycott, which has cost Israel nearly 50 billion dollars in addition to large losses by world companies blacklisted by Arab states for dealing with it.

"The establishment of a comprehensive peace will have a great impact on the region," said Manai, whose Abu Dhabi-based AMF is one of the Arab League's biggest financial organisations.

"It will boost investors' confidence and the region will become an attractive centre for foreign capital. This will benefit Arab states, especially those which need foreign investment."

Egyptian economist Said al-Najjar, one of the best-known economic experts in the Arab world, said he believed a Middle East common market would see light although in the long-run.

"Such a market is not an inevitable result of peace but a higher degree of economic cooperation which could be realised in the far future," he told Al-Shuruq. "Arabs should concentrate in the first stage on cooperation with Israel in joint projects in the fields of water, energy and environment."

Draft Labor Law Prepared After PLO Request

NC1202114994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1011 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—The Arab Labor Organization [ALO] has prepared a draft Palestinian labor law that has been revised by a joint committee made up of experts from the ALO and the PLO, which requested the law.

Announcing this, ALO Director General Bakr Muhammad Rasul said the draft law was based on the main principles stipulated in Arab and international labor standards, taking into consideration the Palestinian people's general circumstances and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

He explained that the Palestinian draft law has 11 sections. Each section contains several chapters and articles about idioms, definitions, and general rules on employment, individual work contracts, working and rest hours, leaves, wages, juvenile's and women's labor, settling collective labor disputes, collective negotiations, collective work contracts, and inspection.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH 27 Jan

NC0402142594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 27 January issue of Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

University Board Now Islamically Run

Candidates from the "Islamic current" have reportedly won all the seats on the board of directors of the Suez Canal University's Teaching Club. Names of the winning professors and the number of votes they obtained are cited in a 400-word front-page report. Dr. Muhammad Abazah, head of the Alexandria University Teaching Club, said that the Ministry of Social Affairs is stalling on setting a date for new elections at the club because opinion polls tip in favor of the Islamic current candidates.

Anti-Islamic Books To Be "Confiscated"

A "responsible source" at al-Azhar Islamic Research Academy reportedly stressed that "all publications on display at the Cairo Book Fair will be scrutinized by the Academy's Composition and Translation Committee and that any written works containing ideas that conflict with our Islamic culture will be confiscated." The source also emphasized that "the grand imam of al-Azhar has ordered banning from the fair and confiscating all books published by the Ministry of Culture, supervised by the Book Authority, that contain ideas conflicting with Islam." The source added that "all pavilions at the fair will be supervised by the Composition and Translation Committee" and pointed out that "the campaign against the Islamic Research Academy launched by secular weekly magazines will not dissuade al-Azhar from combating the stray ideas promoted by the advocates of secularism and communism in Egypt."

Ministry, Book Fair Literature Criticized

People's Assembly deputy Jalal Gharib has reportedly filed a new request for a briefing by Culture Minister Faruq Husni on the ministry's publications and periodicals, which he said contain material "that defames the prophets and divine nature" as well as "poetry that runs

contrary to society's public ethics." He also protested the festivals organized by the Ministry of Culture, which he said include performances by "nude" and "gay" actors and other shows that ridicule religious symbols in violation of the Constitution, which names Islam as the state's religion and the Islamic shari'ah as the "primary source of legislation."

West Accused of Attacking Islam

Reporter Taha Khattab cited Dr. Jamal 'Abd- al-Hadi, a professor of Islamic history, saying that foreign experts, in cooperation with the education minister and a U.S. center for curricula development, are trying to "obliterate the Islamic identity" of students by undermining their sense of patriotism, distancing them from their creed, and making them loyal to the West. Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi noted: "Whoever defends the Islamic identity is branded as extremist and a fanatic by the education minister, who has reassigned thousands of teachers to administrative positions without specific charges, only that they are religious." He concluded, saying: "It seems that the education minister is implementing the Protocols of Zion, which want education in the Islamic countries to be theoretical only."

ROSE AL-YUSUF "Practicing Terrorism"

Chief Editor Mahmud 'Atiyah criticized the weekly ROSE AL-YUSUF, without naming it, for publishing secular and political "garbage," such as extracts from the book by the "apostate" Salman Rushdie (see nc1901121794). Addressing an unnamed "communist" writer in charge of a literary publication for his remarks on the writer Fahmi Huwaydi, 'Atiyah said: "You are practicing the worst kind of terrorism, for you indeed are a terrorist group of a dangerous type that must be eliminated by being discarded from among the sons of the homeland and the body of the nation, because your ideas belong in the garbage can." 'Atiyah then criticized Culture Minister Faruq Husni for setting up a higher council for censorship, most of whose members are "secularists and communists, whose slogan is no to Islam, no to protecting religious and national ethics and values, and yes to permissiveness."

Islamic Shari'ah Advocated

Dr. al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji, secretary general of the Scientists Association, in an article entitled "The Fatal Error," contended that Third World governments are moving in a vicious circle because of a fatal error, namely, separating themselves from their people. Noting that Muslim people wish to apply Islamic shari'ah, he pointed out that the "governments in our countries mostly tend to follow a Western mentality, be it American or Russian." He added that these governments are so engrossed in this fatal error that they have become hostile to the desires and the creed of the nation and have made plans to fight religion and religious people. In conclusion, he noted that no social or political change could be brought about unless "free and fair elections" are held that could give real legitimacy to all the winning quarters.

Islamic Preacher's Ban Questioned

Writer Dr. Faruq 'Abd-al-Salam asked: Why is Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk, a famous Islamic preacher in a Cairo mosque, prevented from giving religious lessons, delivering the Friday prayers, and leading people to prayer. He claimed that there isn't one reasonable explanation for the authority's insistence on preventing Shaykh Kishk from doing his religious duty, although he is one of the ulema of al-Azhar and an articulate orator whose fame is known to Muslims worldwide. He further asked: "On what constitutional and legal basis in Egypt, the seat of al-Azhar, are people like Shaykh Kishk and Shaykh al-Mahallawi denied the right to speak and deliver sermons in God's house and public places, if, as you claim, Egypt is democratic and the oasis of democracy in the region?" He noted that Shaykh Kishk's sermons are taped and broadcast against the authority's will in public squares, such as "Al-'Atabah Square."

Islamic Thinkers on Islam, Extremism

Reporters Hani al-Mikkawi and Yasir al-Dukkan noted a recent seminar held at the Islamic Thinking Institution of the Islamic Education Society. Among the attendees were writer Fahmi Huwaydi, Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, and Islamic thinker Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah who spoke at the seminar on local and international Islamic affairs. Huwaydi is quoted referring to a cultural "crisis" in the country resulting from Israeli, American, and Western "infiltration of Egyptian universities and culture, while Islam is busy defending itself against attacks by various quarters." He continued: "We are living in a society the political orientation of which does not specify the enemy or the friend." While admitting that the "acts of violence" have harmed the "Islamic movement," Huwaydi called for the need to revert to an Islamic "point of reference" (marji'iyah) that truly expresses the requirements of the age. Asked about the gap between Islamists and secularists, he admitted that such a gap exists despite Egyptian society being Islamic, adding that had this been properly highlighted, the current dispute over Islamic shari'ah and Islamic penalties would not have existed.

Asked how sincere is the call for national dialogue, Huwaydi said: "The call for dialogue is a noble call and Muslims advocate dialogue. The broader the dialogue the more serious it is, since it will include all national forces that have a presence in the Egyptian community." But Huwaydi cautions that the dialogue may be a "trap" for the people or an opportunity for the people to merely "vent" their misgivings. Huwaydi added that although he sides with the Islamic movement, this does not mean that he supports violence. Noting that the problem of violence is a "political, economic, and Islamic problem," He pointed out: "The Islamists are ready for dialogue despite the campaign of defamation waged against them

in the press," adding: "We want the Islamic current to acquire its due legitimacy; we want Islam to enter various walks of life." He said the Islamists are a "genuine" party in this country and are entitled "to express themselves and their Islamic identity, which everybody must defend." He also said: "Supposing some factions of the Islamic trend have made mistakes, this does not justify the attack against the Islamic movement and Islam. The Islamic trend is not a group of angels, but human beings who react to reality." He noted that communists and secularists have various factions and asked: So why blame the Islamists for this?

Asked how violence could be handled, Huwaydi pointed out that the current "security" method is unsuitable. He asked that instead of branding these youngsters gangs of outlaws, "Why don't we say there is a political and economic problem that has resulted in frustration leading to despair?" Huwaydi added that some people are trying to widen the differences between the Islamists and the government.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali attributed the disarray in the Islamic world to the Islamic nation having abandoned the "book the teachings of which it was ordered to comply with." In harsh remarks against secularists, al-Ghazali claimed: "Cockroaches are filling the press with their secularism and lies." He adds: "These frogs and cockroaches, from the secular and leftist writers, are the reason for the defeat of this nation; they represent the ugly face of the Islamic nation. They try to undermine the Islamic trend and even side with those hostile to Islam."

Dr. 'Imarah said that the Islamic movement is standing alone to defend the Islamic nation in the face of the "Israeli enemy." Asked why Islamists declined to take part in debates at the Book Fair, he answered: "How could we have a debate about the Islamic movement with 'Adil Imam and Samihah Ayyub [Egyptian artists]? They asked us to debate with them."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 1 Feb

NC0402170294

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 1 February issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

Muslim, Christian Clerics Call For National Unity

A 1,500-word report on page two by Ibrahim Nasr and Mustaf Yasin notes that mainstream Muslim and Christian clerics have issued a call for national unity. According to the report, a seminar on religious thinking and citizenship was held in the Anglican Church in Heliopolis attended by Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd, a former information minister and an "Islamic thinker," and Reverend Samu'il Habib, head of the Anglican community.

Minister Mahjub is cited saying: "Egypt has never known fanaticism or differentiated among its people on religious grounds."

Abu-al-Majd notes: "Egypt is at a crossroads, the same one facing the Arab and Islamic worlds." He elaborates on the vulnerability of the Egyptians, Arabs, Muslims, and Third World people following the collapse of the old world order and the rise of the "new international order" and recommends a return to religious values to achieve stability and strengthen the nation.

Rev. Habib offers 10,000 seedlings to "be planted around the al-Azhar mosque in affirmation of the unity of the people of Egypt and the cohesion of the nation's strands." He makes other charitable offers but is cited no further on any political or religious affair.

Writer Praises Muslim-Christian Seminar

A 600-word "Ramadan is Blessed" column by Majid Salim on page 10 hails the seminar of Muslim and Christian clerics and their call for national unity and denounces those who want Islam or religion to play a marginal role in society. Salim opens his columns with these words: "Divide religions and rule. This is the slogan raised by the heirs of communism and the negators of religion, those who want to drive religion into the sidelines and then cut it off completely on the pretext that it is merely a link between man and God and has nothing to do with relations among members of society." Salim then argues that the solidarity shown by Muslim and Christian clerics proves those "negators of religion" mistaken.

Seminar Emphasizes Religious Education

'AQIDATI carries extensive reportage on its own "convoys" or religious seminars. A 5,000-word report by Mamduh al-'Ashri, Musa Hal, Nazih Fudah, and Mahmud Fudah across pages four and five records the proceedings of a seminar held at the Special Teachers College in Minyat al-Nasr. Most of the discussion is religious, although Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf makes a reference to a particular threat to the country's future. He says: "I am confident that the hostile values [al-qiyam al-mu'adiyah] that do not want Islam to prosper or Egypt to stand on its feet know that Egypt's youths are the basis of its future, so they attempt to deal a fatal blow to those youths through drugs, sex, and extremism." He advises religious education as a way to educate the youth and revive the country's fortunes.

Forces of "Modern Islamic Trend" Outlined

Islamic writer Muhammad 'Imarah dedicates his 900-word "Islamic Views" column on page seven to a discussion of "The Forces of the Modern Islamic Trend." He notes: "In the year 1368 of the hegira, 1948, the Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt entered its first, minor, crisis. In 1954, it entered its second, major, crisis."

'Imarah does not elaborate on the difference between the two crises, but he states that the crisis (not specified) "replaced conventional modes of thinking—particularly among the youths—with the mentality of tension. Among the ranks of those who lived through it, the crisis (not specified) created claws to protect the Islamic body. The feelings of anger, rejection, and protest found voice in the publication of "Milestone on the Road" by martyr Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966). This was followed by the emergence of factions shunning society and seeking to change it through violent means. These factions were united in judging Islamic societies, regimes, and governments as being atheist and pre-Islamic."

'Imarah adds that the trend for "rejection and anger and protest" spawned three strands:

The first strand, which 'Imarah dubs "the claws," is composed of those who believe in violence and jihad.

Another strand, which 'Imarah dubs "the brain," comprises those who call for reviving the Islamic tradition. This second or "traditionalist" strand began with Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (1838-1897) and focused on intellectual propagation.

A third strand, which is expressed in general popular anger, is what 'Imarah calls "the body."

'Imarah provides no further insight into the positions and tactics or future strategy and prospects of these strands and gives no examples of the main representatives of the three strands on today's Egyptian and Muslim scenes.

India's Treatment of Muslims in Kashmir Denounced

Writer 'Adil Dayf dedicates a 300-word column on page 20 to denouncing the Indian Government for its harsh treatment of the Muslims in Kashmir.

Muslims in Germany in Need of More Mosques, Schools

The only interview in this issue is with a German Muslim freelance journalist, Muhammad Haytham 'Ayyash. In the 2,000-word interview on page 20, 'Ayyash notes that there are 4.5 million Muslims, mostly from the Turkish community, living in Germany who can do with more mosques and schools.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 8 Feb

NC1102133594

[Editorial Report] The following is review of the 8 February issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

Sarajevo Highlighted

In this issue, 'AQIDATI gives prominence to reports and commentaries on the front-page headline, "massacres of Sarajevo," and preparations for the advent of the month of Ramadan. Chairman of the Board of Directors Samir Rajab wrote in a 400-word article on page 1 that what is happening in Bosnia is a source of shame for every Muslim. He pointed out that the "massacres of bloody Saturday could recur at any time, so long as this passiveness and indifference remain." He urged Muslims to press their non-Muslims friends hard to undertake "positive mediation" in this regard. Details on religious lectures and seminars in mosques throughout the country during Ramadan are also prominently covered.

Chief Editor on Islam, Extremism

Reporters Mahmud 'Ushb and Ahmad Sha'ban described a seminar organized by the "AQIDATI Convoy" in 'Ayn Shams and Shubra al-Khayman, two Cairo districts. Attendees included local and religious figures and al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, the newspaper's chief editor. Several figures spoke during the seminar on Islamic topics and answered questions from the audience. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf noted that extremism is a "deviation from the middle ground" in any issue, noting that Islam is a "religion of moderation." Defining terrorism, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf said: "Terrorism is a crime of collective murder against society and cannot be justified by a dispute with the regime, a feud with the police, or a protest at reality." He noted that there are various ways to tackle terrorism and extremism. He added: "There is no question that terrorism must be confronted with firmness and strength and that we have to contain and isolate it. As for extremism, it must be confronted first through education at home, at school, in the mosque, at the youth center and cultural center, and in the mass media."

'Abd-al- Ra'uf said on the subject of Islam's view on newspapers and magazines publishing "obscene" pictures of actresses: "There is no doubt that the scenes of nudity we see published on some books and magazines as well as in movie advertisements in the streets are not acceptable to God, His prophet, or any Muslim who is zealous about his religion."

Conspiracy Against al-Azhar Claimed

Writer Basyuni al-Halawani charged that there is a "conspiracy" to undermine the role of al-Azhar. He criticized the BBC for airing a program on the fabricated "battle" between some Egyptian intellectuals and al-Azhar.

Banned Books Reportedly Distributed

Columnist Majdi Salim, writing on the Cairo Book Fair, noted that among the thousands of books on display at the fair, the Book Authority has deliberately offered books that are banned from being displayed and distributed by law at the recommendation of al-Azhar. He also noted that the law has authorized al-Azhar to ban any book that may be offensive to Islam or public ethics, but the Book Authority "ignored" the law and distributed banned books. He emphasized the need to uphold the law, which he said is "our first and last weapon."

Promoting Islam in Media Praised

Reporter Mamduh al-'Ashri praised Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif for not going along with the call to cancel television "censorship" under claims of "enlightenment and innovation." He noted that this proves that the minister knows that the main object of the "cultural invasion" to which the country is subjected is to "destroy" Egypt's youth. He also gave credit to the minister for his call to "intensify religious programs" on television, noting that only channel 2 heeded the minister's call and doubled the "dose of religious material," while channels 1 and 3 did not.

Islamic "Convoys" Resume

Reporter Tariq 'Abdallah noted that al-Azhar University's "convoys of religious and health orientation" have started their activity throughout the republic. One of the convoys, made up of students from al-Azhar and doctors from al-Azhar University Hospital, has visited a village in al- Qalyubiyah Governorate. Dr. 'Ali Mi'bid, professor of philosophy at Usul al-Din college, was quoted, saying that the purpose of the convoy is to "combat the corrupt and devious ideas through holding seminars and competitions" attended by village youth. The convoy's activities include treatment of patients and orientation in the field of public hygiene, arranging for lessons and seminars on religious enlightenment at the village mosques, organizing competitions on Koranic and Islamic cultural subjects, and distributing free medicine to the needy villagers.

U.S. Anti-Islam Campaign Alleged

An unattributed report examined a U.S. media campaign against Islam and Muslims. It said: "Political and media studies, recently conducted by several Islamic institutions in the United States, have affirmed that the fierce campaign that the media has been launching for a long time against Islam and the Muslims have caused the majority of the U.S. public to form a distorted picture of Islam and Muslims." A report prepared by the "American Islamic Center" showed how the U.S. media treatment of specific issues tends to exploit these issues to distort the image of Islam. A specific example given in the study refered to the media treatment of the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. It noted that all reports and analyses on the story had one object in mind; namely, "To convince citizens that Islam is a religion of terrorism and that Muslims are necessarily terrorists." The same study pointed out that the U.S. media advances Islam, rather than Communism, as the West's "enemy" and that Islam is the "green danger that has replaced the red danger." The study added that a cover of "THE NEW YORKER" showed a picture of an Arab boy destroying a city, thus giving the impression that "Muslims are destructive."

The study also refered to the cartoon movie "Aladdin," which "presented a monstrous image of Islam and Muslims with the purpose of implanting it in the minds of U.S. children." The report concluded, saying: "Despite this gloomy picture, there are several indicators that promise a change in the way Islam and Muslims will be viewed in the future. This is what makes the American Muslims, who number more than 6 million, pin high hopes on Islamic countries and organizations to prepare an organized and constant plan to present the real image of the noble religion and those who believe in it to the American people."

Statistics on American Muslims

An unattributed report cited statistics by an American Islamic institute as saying that 11,000 American citizens convert to Islam every year and that the number of Muslims in the United States has reached 5 million.

West "Lacks Will" on Bosnia Issue

Columnist 'Adil Dayf refered to U.S. President Clinton's notion that the international community lacks the will to stop the fighting in Bosnia and that neither NATO nor the UN secretary general has any desire to use NATO's air power to resolve the crisis. He noted that Clinton's remarks reflect the "international connivance" toward the plight of Muslims in Bosnia- Herzegovina. He urged Muslims to unify their efforts to resolve the Bosnian problem instead of waiting for international efforts that will lead to nothing, in view of the "obvious and blatant international connivance."

West's Reporting on Extremism "Exaggerated"

Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf criticized the Western media's "extreme and uncalled for" exaggeration in reporting on the terrorist incidents in Egypt. He noted that the media reports "ignore all the facts that policemen and culprits are more often killed and injured in these incidents than civilians" and that "the percentage of foreigners who become victims is negligible." He added: "This media exaggerates its reports on political Islam and Islamic fundamentalists on the premise that political Islam seeks to achieve power and topple regimes by force." He continued: "We have condemned and continue to condemn and reject terrorism and refuse to accept murder, terror, and sabotage as means and methods for dialogue and reform." He added: "But in the meantime, what these media organs are doing must be condemned, first because it seeks to undermine Islam by distorting its image and linking it to violence and terrorism and, second, because it targets Egypt as a symbol and center of power in the Arab countries and the Islamic world. And if we realize that Zionism is controlling many of these media organs, whether in the form of individual ownership or ownership by major corporations, we could understand the motives for these malicious campaigns." In conclusion, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf hoped that the "voices of reason" coming from British Crown Prince Charles and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the "complimentary" remarks made by President Clinton represent a moderate current of dealing with Islam, noting the need to "develop" this current.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Suggests Formation of 'Regional Order'

TA1402152894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpt] Tunis—President Yasir 'Arafat has disclosed the formation of a "regional order" in the region comprising Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. However, he emphasized that Riyadh is wavering in joining this order because it excludes Syria from any regional arrangements in the region.

President 'Arafat proposed that a Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian bloc be formed to impose itself on this order whose foundations were established during recent visits to Turkey by Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat made this disclosure at his meeting with King Husayn during his short visit to Amman on 10 February after signing the Cairo agreement with Israel.

President 'Arafat asked King Husayn to exert his efforts in mediating between the PLO and Syria with the aim of rebuilding the bridges of confidence between Damascus and the PLO. A senior Palestinian official who participated in the Jordanian-Palestinian summit talks has stressed that steps have been taken toward Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Notes Israeli 'Obstacles' to Implementation

JN1202194294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Yesterday, in Tunis, Brother President Abu-'Ammar received a troika delegation comprised of the ambassadors of Greece, Germany, and Belgium, along with the EC commissioner.

Abu-'Ammar briefed the ambassadors on the Cairo document, which was signed within the framework of the Gaza-Jericho first agreement to advance a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He pointed out the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of this agreement. Abu-'Ammar impressed on the ambassadors the need to urge the Israeli Government to expedite the implementation of the Washington agreement and meet its target dates. The Israeli side, he emphasized, should show credibility and implement the agreements it has signed.

Fatah, People's Party Form 'Coordination Committee'

PM1402140294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Feb 94 p5

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Fatah and the People's Party Form Joint 'Higher Committee'"]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah and the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] (formerly the Communist Party) have decided to form a higher coordination committee consisting of three representatives from each side "to coordinate political positions and discuss developments with a view to maintaining a united position on such developments and ways of dealing with them, and to tackle issues referred to it by other coordination committees."

At the conclusion of meetings held resulting in a "joint program" between them, Fatah and the PPP decided to form "field coordination committees to pursue joint cooperation and act as joint authorities working for the development of relations, cooperation, and settlement of any problems which might arise." The first such committee will be in Jerusalem, the second in Gaza, and the third in Tunis.

The latest edition of the Fatah bulletin issued by Fatah's Central Committee in Tunis said that the cooperation program with the PPP is in the context of the "dialogue with the vital and effective forces to consolidate national unity, contain attempts to impose division and fragmentation, and close the door in the face of the advocates of sedition and infighting." It likened it to the agreement concluded "between the cadres of Fatah and the Hamas fighters" which had a good effect in preventing sedition and in providing more scope for dialogue and democracy which respects the right to disagree.

The 11-point cooperation program, the text of which is published, stressed that the Declaration of Principles "is an instrument of struggle to which we respond to the degree it helps in the implementation of all parts and provisions of Security Council Resolution 242 in a manner that would ensure full withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories."

Fatah and the PPP emphasized that the Palestinian National Authority approved by the Palestine Central Council in its session last October should be considered as the authority "responsible for all aspects of the Palestinian people's life in the areas from which the occupation forces withdraw...and its powers should be extended to include the rest of the West Bank including Jerusalem."

The two sides said that the criteria of the economic negotiating plan should be based "on economic independence, self-reliance, and Arab integration, and that progress in these negotiations should be made conditional on progress in the political negotiations."

Fatah and the PPP underscored the "democratic nature of the Palestinian National Authority and its respect for

human rights, plurality, and the principle of free democratic elections as the basis of legislative and executive authority resulting from political and legislative general elections."

Habash Terms Cairo Accord 'Retreat for the PLO'

JN1502095494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 94 p 10

[From Michael Jansen in Damascus]

[Text] In an interview, Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told this correspondent why he rejected not only the Cairo Agreement on security arrangements for the Palestinian self-rule area concluded on Feb. 9 but also the declaration of principles negotiated in Oslo.

The interview took place at his office in an elegant old house in a quiet, residential quarter of this city. Dr. Habash, well recovered from three serious strokes and sporting a cheerful burgundy red cardigan, spoke in both Arabic and English.

The Cairo accord, which gives Israel full control of the border crossings from Jordan and Egypt into the West Bank and Gaza and full control of access roads to Jewish settlements with the right to pursuit of Palestinian militants continuing their resistance to the occupation, amounts to a "retreat for the PLO", Dr. Habash stated, a "retreat" from its own longterm policy of striving to secure "national rights, self-determination, independence and the right of return" for the Palestinian people. "The majority of Palestinians now oppose" Mr. 'Arafat's policies, "including members of Fatah closest to" him.

Dr. Habash's assessment of the Cairo agreement would seem to be correct because on Feb. 10, the morning after it was signed, a commentator on Israeli Radio said that Israel's main reason for retaining control of the border crossings was to prevent Palestinian expelees from exercising their right to return to their homeland.

Mr. 'Arafat, he stated, "was being pushed by all the major blocs and powers—Europe, the U.S., Japan—to offer more and more concessions to achieve implementation" of the Oslo accord, the signing of which led to the resignation of the PFLP from the PLO Executive Committee. He was particularly critical of Egyptian President, Husni Mubarak, who has been pressing the PLO to make these harmful concessions, and the U.S. which, he said, were acting "in their own interests" and not those of the Palestinian people.

" 'Arafat," Dr. Habash asserted, "had no chance to make gains (for the Palestinian people) but could only make concessions... all the world accepts Israel and all the world, except Israel, accepts the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" but the pressure for concessions is on the Palestinians not on Israel.

The Oslo accord, he went on, was seriously flawed because "all the substantive issues—Jerusalem, fixing borders, the Palestinian right of return, Israeli settlements—have been postponed until the last minute. How long will it take to reach agreement on these major issues when it takes so long to agree on trivial issues."

"Even if (the Oslo accord) were to be implemented easily, it would never solve our Palestinian problem" because it "will never bring a just and comprehensive peace... We used to tell 'Arafat before he signed that agreement that he had to take certain steps before signing. First, adopt a policy based on implementation of the international legitimacy, by this I mean the U.N. resolutions" on Palestine calling for "Israeli withdrawal, recognition of Palestinian rights to repatriation and compensation and so on. Second, work for Arab unity and coordination, especially with Syria. Third, forge Palestinianian unity and fourth, escalate the intifadah... to force Israel to settle."

These steps, particularly his insistance on Arab unity, have been part and parcel of Dr. Habash's strategy since he was head of the arab nationalist movement more than 30 years ago.

Dr. Habash believed the Oslo accord would be undermined in three ways; "the intrasigence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; the Likud taking power (latest polls show that it would win an election) and development of the rejectionist camp," now comprising ten groups based in Damascus and the occupied territories. The main aim of this alliance is to "revitalise the intifadah," restoring it to the high intensity of 1988-89, concentrating on the Israeli economy when Israel suffered losses of $3 billion. I regret to say, and I mean this, without the armed struggle harming the Israeli economy, causing the Israeli army physical losses, Israel will never respond to our demands." He concluded by saying that no member of the alliance would take part in elections to the self-governing authority scheduled in July.

At the PFLP's office in the al-Yarmuk quarter which was once a Palestinian refugee camp, Talal Ahmad, the official in charge of information, stated that the rejection front, the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces," was doing its "best to isolate 'Arafat" and promote "democratic decision-making."

Mr. Ahmad said that the alliance had established an executive committee made up of one member from each group and had decided to "reestalish a unified national command" for the intifadah and set up a 100-member central council, comparable to that of the PLO, consisting of two representatives from each group and independents. Although each group would "act on its own" in the resistance, this was "the first time we have been able to establish such a broad coalition... previously Hamas and Islamic Jihad refused" to cooperate with the secularists, he stated.

As long as the present confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis continues, the rejectionist forces would

be able to operate as usual in the territories, but, Mr. Ahmad asserted, implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord would "complicate" the struggle because the Palestinian police would be a barrier between the intifadah and the Israelis." This would require a "new strategy" which was being developed.

He was not worried about the possibility that the Syrians would curb the activities of the "alliance."

"They will keep us until the last moment" to maintain pressure on Israel. "In any case," he went on, "we're transferring our operational bases to the territories. We have only our political and information offices here... our effectiveness is not dependent on Syria,"—a point made forcefully by the killing of two Israelis on 10 February by Islamic Jihad and the killing of a member of an Israeli undercover death squad by Hamas on Sunday.

PFLP Member Criticizes Policy on Palestinians

NC1202080694 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Salah Salah, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau, has said that under the proposed peace agreement the Palestinians are being denied the right to repatriation. He stressed the need for dialogue between the Palestinians and Lebanon regarding both side's refusal to accept permanent settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

Criticizing the Lebanese Government, he said it wants to dismantle, not rebuild, the Palestinian camps and wants to drive the Palestinians to integrate into society so that the population of the camps will lose their cohesiveness. He noted that this policy furthers the permanent settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

In an interview with the Voice of the Mountain, Salah called for expanding the current camps or building new ones. He praised the great understanding shown by Minister Junblatt on Palestinian civil rights. He said the Palestinian issue will be discussed with Prime Minister al-Hariri soon and urged the labor minister to help resolve the problem of Palestinian employment in Lebanon.

Nasrallah Urges People To 'Destroy' PLO Leadership

PM1402155094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p2

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah has commemorated the second anniversary of the assassination of its Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi and the 10th anniversary of the death of Shaykh Raghib Harb. It held a speech rally in Bi'r Hasan attended by an Islamic Republic of Iran delegation represented by its ambassadors to Lebanon and Syria Homayun 'Ali Zadeh and Mohammad Akhtari-Forughi, and by Lebanese and Palestinian deputies and religious, military, and partisan figures, and others. [passage omitted]

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine," made a speech in which he said that the "resistance men insist on defeating Israel." He criticized those "who drink toasts with murderers and who speak of future normalization." [passage omitted]

At the end, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah spoke. He said that "the resistance, whose leaders they killed in order to destroy it, is now stronger, firmer, and more solid." He reaffirmed that "our firm choice and absolute conviction is that the resistance is the only way to regain the territories and the holy places and to make real and precious peace. We will complete that journey most strongly and will not be deterred by Zionist terrorist methods or the continuous threats of a new war or annihilation of Hizballah...."

He asked "is it not time for everyone to give up their bet on negotiations which can only produce an Israeli peace on Israeli terms?" He criticized the United States for reneging on the commitments announced at the Geneva summit, and he also criticized the "Gaza-Jericho First" and Cairo agreements. He charged that Israel "has not abandoned the option of separate solutions so that it would move quickly to impose its terms on the Palestinian side with the presence of a traitor like (Palestinian President) Yasir 'Arafat who is making endless concessions."

He urged "the Palestinian people to intensify their revolution and uprising and to work seriously for the downfall of the treasonous Zionized leadership of which 'Arafat is the black symbol, and even to destroy it and, by doing so, abort all the humiliating agreements."

He called on all the peoples of the region to "uphold the great resistance option in order to put an end to the occupation, especially in Lebanon." He appealed to "all the Lebanese to join the ranks of the resistance." He thanked Iran and Syria for their positions and criticized the "Lebanese Government and the official silence" about what is taking place in the south. He said: "That government is the biggest absentee in relation to all national issues." He added: "Did you not notice the great official interest shown in the incident of the execution of the murderer who had committed his abominable crime in Ba'labakk (Husayn 'Awwadah) carried out by agreement among the families concerned which adhered to a known Shari'ah rule and carried it out immediately to prevent sedition, at a time when there was terrible official silence about the horrible Israeli aggressions in the south and in western al-Biqa'? Is that government performance not considered to be an encouragement and a complementary factor to the aggression?"

He criticized the way the government addresses the steadfastness of the southerners and the economic and social issues as well as the issue of the return of the evacuees. He also criticized it for "keeping in flux the investigation into the 13 September massacre" (the

al-Ghubayri incident) and he challenged the government to hold a referendum to determine its popularity.

New 'Moderate' Palestinian Publication in Circulation

TA1302205294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Excerpts] A new Palestinian publication in English—THE JERUSALEM TIMES—appeared last weekend. The newspaper adopted a moderate line and is a champion of the peace process. Our correspondent in the territories 'Amir Hay visited newspaper location:

The first issue of THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English was first disseminated in the territories over the weekend. The weekly consists of 16 pages, in which the reader will find reports, articles, and commentaries on current affairs, with an emphasis on the political process. The publication is designed to become a daily within a short time. In the first issue, editor Hanna Sinyurah, who is currently in Spain, chose to emphasize the details of the Cairo agreement.

On our visit to the weekly's East Jerusalem offices today, we were told by several staff members that the publication aims to boost grass roots support for the political process. [passage omitted]

One of the things the reader will not find in the new weekly is, for instance, criticism of 'Arafat's performance in the negotiations with Israel—criticism which became more clamorous in the wake of the Davos summit and the Cairo agreement, and which has been voiced in the two old-time dailies, AL-NAHAR and AL-QUDS.

Editors of the new weekly say it is financed by commercial advertisements, with the PLO extending only ideological support. 'Arafat's opponents say he has prepared himself a new unfledged newspaper that will give him unreserved support after the implementation of self-rule.

Rejectionists' 'Starry-Eyed' Approach Viewed

JN1502101894 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is regrettable that some of our Palestinian brothers think that politics and oratory are one and the same thing. Given that oratory is ever capable of working miracles in a dream world, this section of our Palestinian community seems to judge any political action that falls short of set objectives or does not end up fulfilling aspirations in one fell swoop to be absolutely conspiratorial and capitulationist. For them, political action consists mainly in rhetoric that sets out their objectives.

We had believed that the last few years saw us, Palestinians, cast off this one-dimensional, starry-eyed approach, when we began to talk in terms of political thought, political education, a phased struggle, and the need to pursue our main objectives in stages each requiring a certain shape of struggle and a language suited to changing circumstances. We must now admit that we have been proved wrong. Nearly 14 years since the first and oft-discredited rejectionist experience of the Palestinians, here we are again experiencing the same verbal negative experience. This is not to say that we have anything against the right to dissent and rejection. Indeed, this is a sacred right that should not be undermined as long as it is exercised to advance [words indistinct]. We ourselves are now exercising this very right. Our sole aim is to correct the course of the militant march and safeguard the Palestinian household and strengthen the foundation of Palestinian unity. It is just an attempt we are making from this forum to caution against the risks inherent in the rejectionist rhetoric that never advances beyond lip service. Indeed, these naysayers say nothing of merit, aside from pointing accusing fingers and raising doubts. They also fail to recognize new facts and their implications for the Palestinians and Arabs, and globally. Far from leading to a grasp of new facts and how to handle them, such an approach inevitably leads us away from hard realities. Those who point accusing fingers and pass ready-made judgments, in effect, gradually close the doors before a national dialogue and promote discord and consequently jeopardize our national unity. The naysayers even do not view stepped up struggle against occupation and forcing new facts on the ground as the road to topple the declaration of principles agreement. For them, the only means to topple the agreement is to topple Palestinian legitimacy and the historic leadership of the Palestinians. In other words, the rejectionists are not coming up with any plan of action to dislodge occupation. They have nothing to offer save the same revolutionary statements and slogans they have raised over the past 20 years. Thus, instead of proposing national action to upgrade the revolution and resistance, they are seeking the aggrandizement of factional interests that, if allowed to grow and take hold, carry dire consequences for the militant march of our people. [words indistinct] Are our people's national interests and objectives thus served? We hope this question will be weighed before it is too late.

OPEC Affairs

Organization's President Seeks Accord on Output Cuts

LD1002173894 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Vienna, Feb 10, IRNA—OPEC conference president and Qatar energy and industry minister, 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah, called on the organization to consider, at its next ministerial meeting in Geneva on March 25, a five to ten per cent cut in output aimed at boosting oil prices, according to an OPEC source here Thursday [10 February]. In an interview with IRNA the

source added that the decision was taken at a meeting between al-'Attiyah and the visiting Nigerian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Secretary Chief Don Obot Etiebet in Doha on Wednesday. Etiebet is on a tour of OPEC member countries to shore up support for production cut and price boost.

Without the cooperation of OPEC member countries in cutting production a price hike would be impossible, said the source.

So far Russia, Yemen and Syria have announced their readiness to cooperate with OPEC, but Britain and Norway, two major suppliers of crude have refused to negotiate and cooperate with OPEC, noted the same source. The price of OPEC basket of seven crudes stood at dlrs 13.36 a barrel Wednesday, compared with dlrs 13.39 the previous day.

Non-OPEC States To Reduce Output

JN1202115494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Muscat, 12 Feb (WAKH)—Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, Omani petroleum and minerals minister, has announced that all non-OPEC oil producing countries have agreed to cut down their oil production, and that they are ready for this decision at any time.

The Omani News Agency said at noon today that al-Shanfari's statement came following a phone call he made to 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, Qatari energy and industry minister and the current OPEC president.

The Omani minister paid successful visits to a number of non-OPEC oil producing countries in December and January [words indistinct] stability of oil markets and boost prices [words indistinct] through reducing their oil output.

Egypt

Islamic Group Spokesman Comments on Plans, Other Issues

NC1402170594 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 9 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, official press spokesman of the Islamic Group Abroad, by Hisham Mubarak, in Denmark; date not given]

[Text] [Mubarak] What were the pressures that made you leave Peshawar and seek asylum in Denmark?

[Qasim] The pressure began after an article appeared in the magazine AL-MURABITUN in which I criticized Saudi Arabia for refusing entry to pilgrims from countries that supported Iraq during the occupation of Kuwait. I also wrote several articles criticizing the Al Sa'ud rule. Saudi Arabia issued an order to the relief organizations operating in Afghanistan to stop supporting al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group, IG]. The Saudi Government officially asked Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to extradite me to Egypt and the Egyptian Government. This information reached 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Afghan Ettehad-e Eslami, who asked me to enter Afghanistan. He put a car and Muslim guards at my disposal. He also put my new house under guard. I found it difficult to move around. I then received an invitation from Denmark and I travelled there. I asked for political asylum and was granted it.

Before that, martyr 'Adli Yusuf, whose nom de guerre was "Abu- Suhayb" was the first to arrive in Afghanistan through Saudi Arabia in 1985. He was followed by martyr 'Abd-al-Fattah (Abu-al-Yusr) also through Saudi Arabia and then by 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah and Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli.

As for Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri's group, some went to Saudi Arabia while he arrived in Afghanistan. At first, they were called "al-Muttahamun" [the accused] in the al-Jihad Organization case. They became acquainted with Usamah Bin-Ladin, a rich Saudi national who believes in the idea of al-Jihad. He trusted them and together they established the "al-Qa'idah" [the base], a guesthouse for receiving those wishing to join the Afghan jihad. They called themselves the (Jama'at al-Jihad) from that time.

[Mubarak] There are reports about uninterrupted contacts between the IG and the U.S. Administration and its Embassy in Cairo. Can you explain to us what went on in these contacts?

[Qasim] This is no different from the issue of dialogue with the government. We did not contact the U.S. Embassy. All these reports of such contacts are lies. I can confirm that no contacts have been held on any level with the U.S. Embassy. It was the Americans who asked for contact but we refused it.

[Mubarak] It is not important who began the contacts, but what happened in them?

[Qasim] There were no contacts. There were attempts on their part, which we rejected.

[Mubarak] How were these attempts made?

[Qasim] The first attempt with me was made following my release in 1988 and my escape for the first time from the sentries around my house. A lawyer came and asked for an appointment because some foreigners wanted to meet me—correspondents and officials from human rights organizations in their countries. The first was a U.S. correspondent, the second was the chief editor of a Yugoslav magazine, and the third was the first secretary in the Swiss Embassy. I began by asking them: Why are you interested in meeting me? The Swiss emphasized that the aim was to learn the violations to which the IG and its members were subjected in prisons so as to inform his government, which would then pressure the Egyptian Government. The American and the Yugoslav said the meeting was important to them as correspondents and because they recognized me as a source of information on what was happening in Egypt. I explained to them in detail the violations, torture, and detention to which the IG members were subjected. The dialogue went no further.

[Mubarak] Were other attempts made?

[Qasim] The same lawyer came and asked for an appointment for the U.S. correspondent. I refused and asked him to tell the American to send a photocopy of what he published about our first meeting in which I spoke about human rights violations so that I might see the result of the meetings. Otherwise, why should we meet again?

[Mubarak] But these attempts were made by correspondents. What about the U.S. Embassy?

[Qasim] The only time the embassy tried was following my arrest and while I was in prison at the end of 1988. The attempt was made through the same lawyer. He told me that the embassy's political officer wanted to meet me. I was surprised because how could he meet me when he knew I was in prison. The lawyer stressed that the official said he himself would solve it. I told the lawyer to ask him first: What do you want from this meeting? When the lawyer returned, he said the official wanted the following:

1. To get acquainted with me personally.
2. To be assured that we did not regard the United States as "the great satan."
3. To stress to the IG, represented in my person, that the Egyptian Government does not use the U.S. aid reaching Egypt to strike at the Islamic movement.

My answer was to refuse a meeting. We do not meet officials from governments. And for us, the United States is the major enemy, just like Israel.

[Mubarak] Why has the IG carried out acts of violence against tourism?

[Qasim] There are several reasons for the attacks on tourism:

First, tourism represents a massive source of illicit [haram] state revenue. This revenue provides the ruling regime with financial resources that help it to stay in power. We believe the regime should be removed. So, we decided to strike at this activity to deprive the regime of this revenue and hasten its demise. According to statistics, the annual income generated by tourism is 3.2 billion pounds [about $1 billion]. The government's own reports admit that a limited number of operations by the Islamic groups, which cost us nothing, have undermined this illicit revenue.

Second, tourism in its current form is pure evil. It is an activity through which prostitution and AIDS are being spread, particularly by female Jewish tourists. It is a despicable source of a host of abominations. Tourism is also a way for foreign intelligence services to collect information about the Islamic movement. So, tourism is a certified evil and must be terminated.

[Mubarak] But these acts of violence that you committed involved murder. Tourists were killed. What does the government have to do with this?

[Qasim] Some tourists should not be killed. The target of our campaign is tourism, not tourists. We have taken several measures to protect the lives of tourists. We have issued several statements warning tourists against coming to Egypt, where their lives will be endangered. We have said that whoever visits Egypt subjects himself to danger because of our campaign against the tourism sector. We have also sent messages to the competent authorities warning them against inviting tourists for these reasons. Having done all this, those tourists who still visit the country are doing so at their own risk.

[Mubarak] You said tourism is pure evil and a source of abomination. This is one of the reasons you cite for the attacks against the tourism sector. But AIDS and drugs are not a result of tourism. There are countries that have no tourism but in which drugs and AIDS are widespread.

[Qasim] The Egyptians did not use drugs before the start of the tourism boom. I agree that tourism may not be the sole cause for the spread of drugs but it is a major factor. Press reports have repeatedly linked tourism with drugs, AIDS, and espionage.

[Mubarak] Suppose, for the sake of argument, that tourism was the reason for the spread of AIDS and drugs as you say and that it is an abomination that should be changed. Why did you decide to strike at tourism only last year when we know that the tourist areas are centered in Upper Egypt, where, historically, your influence has always been. There must be other reasons prompting you to strike at tourism. Otherwise, why did you keep silent about this evil? You have existed since the mid-seventies.

[Qasim] Tourism is basically permissible if it is conducted according to Islamic rules. But if a war is raging, then why should the tourists come to these areas when they know they are in danger, unless there are other reasons making them come.

[Mubarak] For some time, we have seen reports of divisions and splits within the IG, especially after the tourism incidents, when some dissident leaders rejected this tactic. This analysis is confirmed by the calm in several governorates, such as al-Minya and Suhaj, where the IG has a strong influence and yet refused to participate in this conflict against the security organs. What is your view?

[Qasim] There are no differences or splits on any leadership or base level inside the IG. There are no differences over tourism or any other issue concerning some governorates' nonparticipation in striking at tourism. There are two reasons for this:
1. Reasons that concern the government. The regime cannot open several fronts simultaneously. It has not succeeded in the battle it started in Dayrut and will be unable to decide this battle even with the forces it has brought in from Cairo and the areas surrounding Dayrut. So, the regime prefers not to start new battles now.
2. Reasons that concern the IG. We have not decided upon a comprehensive confrontation. What is happening now is preparation, only "a hotting up." It is in our interest at the preparatory stage to maintain bases in calm governorates so that they can operate calmly in accordance with the plan prepared for them and achieve what is required of them. Briefly, we are the ones who will decide when and who will move. These governorates are required to remain calm. Their role has not come yet.

[Mubarak] You issued a statement saying that investments will soon be the target of IG operations. When will you carry out violent acts against investments?

[Qasim] The timing for striking at investments depends on several circumstances. These include the nature of the Egyptian security organs' performance against us and then our assessment of the conflict with the state. If the state opts for a new escalation against the IG, then the investment sector will be the target of revenge as a kind of deterrent.

[Mubarak] In which case, you will not have the religious grounds you cited for the attacks on tourism. What are your reasons for the campaign against investment?

[Qasim] We seek to destroy all the state organs and facilities with the least possible bloodshed. The task is easy. A single IG military unit can strike at investment in Egypt when the time is right.

[Mubarak] The military operations you directed against tourism have cost you a lot. The security organs have

eradicated the IG influence in many areas. Most of the major IG leaders are in jail. Did the IG make an error of judgment when it took its struggle against the state to the highest level with the attacks on such an important sector as tourism?

[Qasim] I big to differ with your use of the term the highest possible level. What has happened in our struggle with the state is very limited and only in line with the stages we adopt in our effort to weaken the state. This is just a prelude to an all-out confrontation. The current level of confrontation is only the beginning. The major struggle has not begun. Besides, the security organs have no clue as to the IG structure. For example, the recurring announcement by security officials that they have eliminated 99 percent of IG members contradicts the daily press reports about the arrests of dozens, even hundreds, of people.

[Mubarak] I feel that with your campaign against tourism you have launched a losing, even suicidal, battle. The ensuing security efforts have undercut your operations.

[Qasim] The IG is still alive and will remain unshaken. All the security strikes have been ineffectual. At any rate, our religious duty is to engage in jihad, not to reach a particular outcome. We take the right path and God almighty decides on the outcome. We do what the shari'ah tells us to do with regard to establishing the Islamic state. If the outcome is victory, that is fine with us. If it is death, that too is fine.

[Mubarak] There have been reports about a dialogue between yourself and the security officials following your release in 1988. What was that about?

[Qasim] First, there was no dialogue involved, despite recent reports concerning a mediation committee. When I was under house arrest after my release in 1988, Major General Sa'id Thabit of the Internal State Security Service summoned me and told me the acts of violence waged by the IG in south Egypt, 'Ayn Shams [a Cairo suburb], and other areas must end. I stated the IG's conditions for ending violence. They are:

1. IG detainees and prisoners should be released.
2. Propagation activities should be legalized. IG mosques must not be sequestered.
3. Torture and the holding of hostages should be ended.

The security official did not agree. On the contrary. They strengthened the guard during my house arrest in 1988. After fleeing my house and my arrest in 1989, the same official came back and asked me to stop the violence, particularly in 'Ayn Shams, which has witnessed a noticeable escalation in the IG operations against the police. I repeated what I said about the conditions I mentioned. Again, these were rejected. That is the story. There was no dialogue. There will not be one.

[Mubarak] But there are confirmed reports that a mediation committee of religious scholars was coordinating and organizing the dialogue between the IG leaders in prison and security officials and that that was the reason the government dismissed Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, a party to the dialogue.

[Qasim] There was no dialogue. Apart from what I said earlier, no IG leaders inside the prison or outside have met religious scholars or security officials. The mediation story was fabricated. We issued a statement dismissing the idea of dialogue or mediation. Our position is clear in this regard. There can be no truce or reconciliation with the regime. The issue is confrontation between the two parties until one finishes the other off or the Islamic system is fully applied.

[Mubarak] Does this mean the IG insists on rejecting any dialogue designed to stop the bloodshed and violence?

[Qasim] We will enter no dialogue unless one of two cases applies:

1. It is dialogue with the state security and government shaykhs and ulema with a view to dismissing the suspicions they raise occasionally about our ideology. This is our duty and we call for it.
2. In the event of our achieving power, we might negotiate with the key figures of the outgoing authority about the conditions for their exit from the country.

[Mubarak] But the information indicates that 'Abbud al-Zumur was a party to the dialogue.

[Qasim] This never happened. What was reported was untrue and denied by 'Abbud al-Zumur.

[Mubarak] What about press reports attributed to Safwat 'Abd- al-Ghani regarding the mediation committee in which he confirms the existence of a dialogue?

[Qasim] First, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani's statements were distorted. Second, I am the one who officially expresses the IG's positions. I only discussed the mediation issue to deny its existence.

[Mubarak] Many observers believe the IG has lost on every level and that the security services have eliminated its threat. What do you think?

[Qasim] This is wrong. At the military level, although the all-out confrontation has not started, and the struggle is still at its preparatory stage, the state has failed to decide a single battle. The Dayrut battle has not been decided, despite the massive forces brought in from the other governorates. Indeed, the IG members in Dayrut exhausted the government strength and confused its forces. Military superiority favors the IG. We maintain a presence in 18 governorates and their scores of towns and hundreds of villages. The state has failed to decide even a small battle in one of the 13 towns of Asyut Governorate. And Asyut is only one of 18 governorates in which we are present.

On the political level, the state is suffering various political crises. The political forces' rejection of

Mubarak's nomination is perhaps the best example. On the economic level, simple strikes that cost us nothing enable us to obstruct the tourism sector; the state is suffering an economic crisis that has been deepened by tourism problems.

The various levels of struggle have added to the IG's firmness.

I conclude from this that the IG's curve is going upward, contrary to what some people imagine.

[Mubarak] I disagree. First, the IG's mosques, known for their active role, have been taken by the government. Second, you give government failure to decide the battle in Dayrut as evidence that the IG is still strong. But the government ended your influence in many other regions, like Imbabah, 'Ayn Shams, Qina, Aswan, and Damietta. The IG does not exist there. The IG's armed elements were liquidated, as many members were killed. Finally, that arrivals from Afghanistan are being used means the IG is using its last line of defense.

[Qasim] This is not true. Statements by security leaders indicate that we have killed more of them than they have killed of us since 1981. What you said about government successes in regions like Aswan, Imbabah, and Qina is not true either. Although in the past we used mosques to propagate the message, we did not stop when the government controlled the mosques. The IG invented methods to continue its activity, such as using direct video transmission, audio cassettes, and various publications. And educating members in apartments instead of mosques—because of the security situation—allows us to intensify our programs. In short, our activity is continuing but the methods and means have changed. The participation of IG members in Afghanistan in the current struggle in Egypt was intended from the beginning. Those members were scheduled to return anyway. Your thinking that they are the last line is wrong; they are just the beginning of the struggle. Anyway, I won't go into more detail about this point.

[Mubarak] What are the IG's poles of action now?

[Qasim] There are three poles of action. These are:

1. The military coup:

Work on this level is afoot. The state knows nothing about it and its security organs are preoccupied with minor incidents carried out by IG youths in Upper Egypt.

2. The mass action:

When the Islamic revolution takes place, it must be accompanied by a widespread mass action. This is vital to prevent foreign intervention or at least to have the action impede intervention for 18 days, according to our military people. Many of the demonstrations we organized were meant, among other things, to train the IG cadres in mass action. We have expertise in this field.

3. The special operations axis:

This action is necessary to assassinate some officials. It is the stage of heating things up. This organ has gained expertise by implementing operations. It is ready now and has a role in implementing the plan. This organ is in action and will not stop the assassination acts as long as there are circumstances that require them. It is wrong for anyone to think that the arrest of its members or the halting of its activities for some time means an imbalance. Action is taken in accordance with a plan drawn up for this organ's work.

The state knows nothing about the military organ that is responsible for preparing the military coup. It knows nothing about the special operations organ. When some of its members are arrested, they only know about their group, which is no use to the security forces, since the group is completely separate and has no links with the other groups.

[Mubarak] I feel you are exaggerating the military action. We have not heard about military groups belonging to the IG and the intelligence service has arrested no elements affiliated to you. What proof do you have?

[Qasim] The events of 1981 [the killing of al-Sadat] answer you. The security organs had no idea about the IG's military wing. This is the most convincing answer. The arrest or nonarrest of military elements does not mean there are or are not military groups. Generally speaking, there were military people in the al- Jihad case.

[Mubarak] The military who left service or were accused in the al-Jihad case were officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. They had no influence. Supposing that what you say about a presence in this sector is true, this does not mean there is any real danger. What do you think?

[Qasim] I beg to differ with you. The influential forces are the minor officers and the situation in the military units confirms this. Soldiers do not get their orders from high-ranking officers such as a brigadier general and above. We are convinced of the importance of the lower ranks. This is a lesson from history. They are the motivators.

[Mubarak] What are the details of the coup plan you prepared in 1981 and whose spark was the attack on the reviewing stand against President al-Sadat?

[Qasim] The plan was based on several axes: Military action to seize control of the main centers, such as the operations room, the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the television and radio building, and the important bridges. The plan also called for the issuance of fabricated statements attributed to various army units expressing support for the Islamic revolution in order to confuse the Army Command and paralyze its activity. At the same time, armed elements would move to kill some influential state figures or those who would attempt to ride the popular wave. The people would then go down to the streets to prevent foreign intervention. We also had an alternative plan that was to be implemented in an

emergency. This is the one that was carried out in 1981 after the arrest of a number of leaders, including myself, during the September campaign.

The organization decided to implement the emergency plan for fear that the security service may have learned about the organization after our arrest. The emergency plan was amended after we learned that Khalid al-Islambuli has been selected to participate in the military parade. The leadership was hesitant whether to go ahead with the plan to assassinate al-Sadat or not. The brothers in Cairo decided to carry out the assassination plan, and that the shots to be fired by al-Islambuli would herald the start of the revolution and the movement in Cairo and Asyut. Usamah Hafiz was asked to travel to Upper Egypt to inform the other leaders about the plan. But he could not get to Asyut because the police had established checkpoints along the road. Usamah was forced to change his itinerary. Therefore, the assassination operation came as a surprise to the Upper Egypt leaders. They thought that the fact that they had not received information about the assassination plan meant that the plan has been postponed. They waited for two days in order to prepare for the movement that began on the first day of the holiday. They succeeded in seizing control of the Asyut Governorate and the security directorate. But the security forces were able after many hours to regain control of the governorate, and the plan failed in Cairo.

[Mubarak] How did Khalid al-Islambuli join the IG?

[Qasim] Khalid is the younger brother of Muhammad Shawqi al- Islambuli, one of the founders of the IG. Muhammad invited him to join the group, and he did. He began attending the weekly meetings we held in al-Rahmah Mosque. We decided to accept him as a member, and I was his amir in the Naja' Hammadi group. He was full of enthusiasm. He asked me more than once to give him permission to direct his unit's guns at the presidential palace where al-Sadat lived. He was an officer in the Artillery Corps. I used to calm him down, and hinted to him that something was being prepared and he should wait. Later I included Khalid in the group responsible for carrying out the coup.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Urges Action in Bosnia

NC1402163194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] In a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today, the Council of Ministers discussed a report presented by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the efforts of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy to bring the viewpoints of the two sides closer. These efforts ended with the initialing last Wednesday of a document on one of the phases of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. President Mubarak attended the signing.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said the Palestinian-Israeli talks brought the two sides' views on the size of Jericho and Gaza closer together. The Jericho area is 60 square kilometers in area and Gaza 300 square kilometers. The information minister said the Council of Ministers stressed the need for Egypt to continue its efforts until the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho takes place in April. It also emphasized Egypt's continued role in advancing the peace process on all negotiating tracks with a view to achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The information minister said the foreign minister's report also dealt with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council of Ministers stressed Egypt's adherence to the Security Council resolution authorizing NATO to use force against the Serbs if they fail to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo. The Council of Ministers condemned the Serbs' massacres and criminal acts against Muslims in Bosnia. It called on the world community to deal a decisive blow to Serbian aggression and to coordinate with the Islamic countries to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and support the Bosnian people in attaining their legitimate rights.

The information minister said the Council of Ministers approved the draft agreement between Egypt and the PLO on economic and technical cooperation. It also approved a number of draft agreements on exploration for oil in various regions in Egypt.

The information minister said the Council of Ministers also discussed a report presented by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on the efforts of the security agencies against criminal terrorists. In the report, the interior minister stressed that the security services are chasing the criminals who have perpetrated terrorist acts at home and abroad. He said the capture of these criminals and the details of their abortive schemes will be announced.

The Council of Ministers stressed its support for the security services in their all-out confrontation with terrorists within the framework of the law and the Constitution. The information minister said the interior minister's report also explained many activities for maintaining security and pursuing outlaws.

AL-SHA'B Reports on Bid To Kill Mubarak

NC1402132894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Ashraf Khalil]

[Text] The security forces managed by sheer chance to foil a new attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak when they raided hideouts of the Islamic groups in al-Ma'sarah, Hulwan, and al- Zawiyah al-Hamra' over the past three weeks. Nine members of the groups were charged with the attempt and have been

referred to the military court in criminal case no. 2 of 1994 in Sidi Barrani, Marsa Matruh, where the attempt was to have taken place when President Mubarak intended to visit Libya. The defendants managed to plant explosive charges in two important places: the airport and the VIP lounge where President Mubarak is used to staying.

One of the casualties in the raid on al-Ma'sarah-Hulwan made detailed confessions under the influence of drugs while he was in surgery. Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi Abd-al-Baqi, one of the defendants in the attempt, was killed when the security forces raided the al- Zawiyah al-Hamra' hideout last week.

It is worth noting that the Sidi Barrani court held its first hearing on this case on 30 January. It will hold another hearing next week. A retired judge has been summoned to chair the trial. He previously passed a verdict in a military case.

Islamic Group Claims Attack on Bus; Bomb Explosion in Tanta

NC1402183594 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 14 (AFP)—A bomb planted by suspected militants seriously wounded four people in a shopping centre in a town north of here on Monday, police said.

The bomb, which went off outside a shop and wounded passers by in the town of Tanta, was similar to those seized during a police raid here two weeks ago in which seven members of the outlawed Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] were killed.

Two of the group's gunmen also fired on a bus carrying Romanian and Egyptian engineers in the southern city of Asyut on Monday, shattering windows but caused no injuries.

The Jama'ah said it carried out the shooting attack as part of its "campaign against foreign investors and tourists" and to avenge seven members killed in a February 1 police raid in Cairo, the group said in a statement to AFP.

The gunmen opened fire as the bus drove through Asyut, 380 kilometers (230 miles) south of Cairo, on its way to a cement factory, police said. The engineers hit the floor when the shooting started and escaped injury.

The Jama'ah has warned foreigners to leave Egypt as part of a violent campaign against President Husni Mubarak's government which has killed almost 300 people.

The group said the shooting was the fifth attack it has carried out to "avenge the seven martyrs of al-Zawiyah al-Hamra'," a poor Cairo neighborhood. Jama'ah has accused the police of gunning down the seven militants in cold blood.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reaffirms Adherence to 'Cultural Course'

EA1302165794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has confirmed the revolution's adherence to the cultural course accepted by the Sudanese people of making god's law their arbiter. He said that the dogfight of the enemies and those lying in wait for us would only make us more determined to move forward to establish a good society, a society of values and decent morals.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir made it clear in his speech before the masses during the holding of god's table [ma'idat al-rahman ayt—breaking the fast for the poor] at Umm Baddah that the conspiracy of the West will not frighten us, because we know that power belongs to god alone. The shortage of funds, men and fruits [koranic quote] to which we have been subjected is no more than a trial from god to test the extent of our adherence to his course and the extent of our turning towards him.

He stated: We once again declare our rejection of all resolutions and charters of the security council and the United Nations which contradict god's law.

Country Said Ready To Send Troops to Bosnia If Asked

EA1002124094 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—President of the republic General 'Umar al-Bashir has declared Sudan readiness to send troops to Bosnia-Hercegovina if the country is asked to do so and if the U.N. peacekeeping forces decided to pull out from there.

Speaking at his regular meeting with the leaderships of the national media, General al-Bashir called on the Islamic nations to send forces beside the U.N. Forces in Bosnia, adding that the threat to withdraw the U.N. troops from Bosnia in the last part in the conspiracy targeting the Bosnian people [sentence as received].

He added that there is no serious reaction to the agression of the Serb forces which have been bombing the civilians in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Demonstrators Protest Events in B-H

EA1002201694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The masses of the national capital staged a march this morning led by members of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] to condemn the savage crimes of the Serbs against the Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The marchers moved from Martyrs' Square through University Street to the UN

building, condemning the iniquitous aggression and barbarous attacks against the Bosnian people and the UN's reluctance to lift the arms embargo, which is preventing the Bosnian people from defending themselves and their property.

Dr. Shakir al-Sarraj, chairman of the TNA's foreign relations committee delivered to the UN representative in Khartoum a memorandum in which the citizens and political and people's organizations demanded the lifting of the arms embargo to enable the Bosnian Muslims to confront the Serbian aggression launched to exterminate the Muslims. The memorandum also appealed to [words indistinct] parliaments and the Islamic nation to act to rescue the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The UN representative thanked the Sudanese Government and people for their support for the Bosnian people in their ordeal. He promised to submit the memorandum to the UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, chairman of the TNA's security and defense committee, stressed that the Sudanese people want to be the vanguard of the defenders of the Muslim people in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the hideous massacres they are being subjected to by the aggressive Serbian forces. Maj. Gen. Uwaydah commented on the president of the Republic's statement about Sudan's readiness to send forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina to participate in preserving security and stability under the auspices of the United Nations saying, Sudan wants to send its forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina to help preserve security and stability and to safeguard the honor being violated there with the full knowledge of the bellicose states. Maj. Gen. Uwaydah reiterated Sudan's readiness to send its forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina to carry out humanitarian tasks, saying the Sudanese people are urged by Islam and its principles to help the [word indistinct] and to support the weak.

Rebels Say 281 Killed in Government Offensive

AB1402182594 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 14 (AFP)—Sudanese rebels said Monday [14 February] that 281 people had been killed or wounded in a government offensive against the southern town of Mundri, near the border with Zaire. UN and relief officials said more than 100,000 Sudanese were fleeing a major onslaught by government warplanes and troops against rebel-held territory in the drought-hit south.

The offensive could be the final push by Khartoum's Islamic fundamentalist military government to end the decades-old rebellion in the black and largely Christian south, diplomats and aid workers said.

The aid workers said a government ban on relief flights to southern areas along the Ugandan border had disrupted food supplies to about 200,000 displaced people living on aid. The UN has appealed for funds to continue relief operations in the south, where agriculture, already thrown into chaos by the civil war, has also been hit by a severe drought.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said that "more than 281 civilians were killed or wounded" in the bombardment and bombing of Mundri, in Western Equatoria province.

There was no independent confirmation as most aid workers left Mundri last week when government forces closed in on rebels defending the town.

In a statement released here Monday, one of the two rival SPLA factions said it had repelled the government offensive and the army was retreating northwards from Mundri. A spokesman for John Garang's mainstream faction said the rebels had killed 67 government soldiers, but the claim was also unconfirmed.

The SPLA splintered into two factions in 1991, and the government has since taken advantage of the rebels' internal divisions to drive them out of most of the southern garrison towns which they had captured.

Wrapup of Various Reactions to Mosque Attack

Opposition Leader Comments

NC1402203094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, 14 Feb (MENA)—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and opposition leader, has accused the Sudanese Government of responsibility for the armed attack against a mosque in Khartoum. He said the government has facilitated the entry of extremists from various countries of the world into Sudan. Addressing the Ansar al-Sunnah group, whose mosque was attacked last week, al-Mahdi said that the government has opened the country's doors to extremists who only believe in violence and reject any dialogue to resolve differences.

In statements published by the Algerian French-language paper EL WATAN today, al-Mahdi added that this incident, which left 16 people dead, is regarded as the most serious in Sudan since the military coup carried out by 'Umar al-Bashir in 1989.

He noted that Sudan has become a place of refuge for all the extremists from the various countries of the world, including the Egyptian Islamic groups, the Tunisian Islamic Ennahda Movement, the Moroccan al-'Adl wa al-Ihsan Group, and the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, as well as leader of the Sudanese Islamic Front Hasan al-Turabi.

The Algerian EL WATAN said that 50 leaders of these groups will form a council that will meet regularly in Sudan. There is already a smaller council consisting of 15 top leaders, including Algerian FIS leaders Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. The paper noted that after their

arrest, Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamic Ennahda Movement, has become the most important figure in this council.

The paper wondered whether the extremists admitted into the country by the Sudanese Government were behind the armed attack that took place against the mosque of the Ansar al-Sunnah group, which is opposed to the government and is being persecuted by the Sudanese authorities. [passage omitted]

Minister, Moroccon Envoy Comment

EA1102160994 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Interior Minister Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, said after his meeting with His Excellency the ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Khartoum yesterday that the accused Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Halifi, who participated in the attack on worshippers in the al-Thawrah Mosque in the first quarter in Omdurman is not a Moroccan. He said investigations had indicated him to be of Najdi origin and that his family had emigrated in the 1920's to Tunisia and now resided in Libya. The minister said the accused had confessed participating in the hideous incident together with his colleagues. The minister said those named during the investigations were now being interrogated.

PANA Notes Suspects

AB1002193994 Dakar PANA in English 1802 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (PANA)—A Libyan, Chadian and Sudanese were involved in last Friday's bloody attack on a Khartoum mosque which claimed the lives of 16 worshippers and injured 20 others, Sudan radio reported on Thursday. The radio quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying Mohamed 'Abdallah Abdul Rahman al-Khilaifi, who was first identified as a Moroccan, is a Libyan. Khilaifi, who has been in Sudan for one year, was injured when security men engaged the attackers in a shoot out last Saturday. The statement said his family migrated from Saudi Arabia to Libya in 1928 and live in the north African country. The statement identified two attackers who were killed in the shootout as Abdulabgi Yousif from Chad and Yassir Mohamed 'Ali from Sudan. The two had been described only as "West Africans" on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, said on Wednesday that those accused of involvement in the mosque attack would be given a fair trial. He said the attackers also planned to kill a Saudi businessman, Usama bin Ladin, who lives in exile in Sudan.

The Sudanese Government has said there is no link between the gunmen and the radical Islamic movement, the Takfir and Hijra Islamic fundamentalist organization. The movement, which was born in Egypt during the days of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, was known for terrorist activities.

Fourth Suspect Arrested

AB1302172594 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 13 (AFP)—Sudanese security authorities have arrested a fourth suspect in the assault on a mosque in which 16 people were killed and and 20 others wounded earlier this month, a newspaper report said Sunday [13 February].

Two of the assailants were killed and two others were wounded and arrested in a shootout with security forces on February 5, the day after the massacre.

A Palestinian identified as Munir Khalil, had been arrested on the day of the attack at the Ansar Souna mosque in Omdurman, near here.

The AL SUDANI INTERNATIONAL daily Sunday reported that the fourth suspect, identified as Mohamed al-Mahi, a Sudanese, was arrested at Er-Roseiris in central Sudan and brought to Khartoum for interrogation.

Mahi told investigators that he left Khartoum the day before the attack because he was not convinced of the assassination operation despite his conviction of the teachings of his extremist group.

Mahi, according to the paper, confessed that they were planning to assassinate Sudanese Islamist leader Hassan Abdalla al-Turabi and that for this reason their ringleader, Libyan Mohamed Abdalla al- Khilaifi (now under arrest in hospital) inspected the surroundings of Turabi's residence in preparation for carrying out the assassination.

Implications of Attack on Stability Viewed

PM1102161094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Feb 94 p11

[Editorial: "Sudan and the Latest Suspect Attack"]

[Text] The attack launched by an extremist group on the Ansar al-Sunnah al-Muhammadiyah mosque in Omdurman, in which about 16 worshippers were killed, calls for concern not only because of the number of casualties but because of its timing and indications as far as Sudan, its stability, and its security are concerned.

Two days after the attack some Western news agencies began talking about a horrible scenario in Sudan similar to the Lebanese civil war and the conflict between the militias in Somalia.

If we examine the sequence of events over the past three months, from the mutual expulsion of ambassadors by Khartoum and London, to the U.S. media campaigns focusing on the violation of human rights in the south, to the Washington conference to which the opposition

factions were invited with the implicit blessing of the State Department, we would realize that something is being hatched for Sudan and its people.

True, there are differences of opinion between some Sudanese political groups and the present Sudanese regime, especially over the absence of democracy of the Western parliamentary type based on direct free elections, but, noticeably, most of the regimes on which the opposition depends are also lacking in democracy and freedom of expression. It is perhaps worth noting that the regimes which support some Sudanese groups in their legitimate struggle for democracy are the very same regimes which had plotted against the Sudanese democratic experiment which flourished after the downfall of President Ja'far Numayri's regime in an unprecedented popular uprising.

The danger currently threatening Sudan necessitates that both government and opposition face it jointly in one trench because its aim is to tear the country apart and plunge it into devastating wars that would blow away all the positive achievements such as food self-sufficiency, freezing of foreign debts, and elimination of many aspects of corruption. For all to be able to stand in the same trench, there should be dialogue and frankness based on loyalty to the homeland and its territorial integrity, not on the basis of revenge and suspect foreign links.

The fact that the United States has been hostile to Sudan and has added its name to the terrorist list is in itself proof that there is something positive in Sudan, something not to the liking of certain Western circles known for not always harboring good intentions toward the Arabs and Muslims.

Why is the United States antagonistic to Sudan when there are no common borders, interests, trade exchange, or oil transactions between the two? What really disturbs some Western quarters about Sudan is that in Sudan there is a desire for real independence, self-sufficiency, a complete Islamic program, and equality, and an eagerness to open the country to Arab and Islamic investments and to apply the Islamic Shari'ah. The American rule is subservience of the regimes to the will of the White House and the states in its orbit. The exception is promotion of an Arab Islamic identity outside the framework of U.S. hegemony. When corruption was the only certainty in Sudan and when Western intelligence services were acting freely there under different names such as relief and human rights organizations, Sudan was at the top of the list of states satisfactory to both West and East, but when it tried to steer a different course the picture changed completely.

Is it not worth noting that Eritrea, which had received every possible aid and support from Sudan's Islamic regime, is now complaining about its fundamentalism and denying all the aid the Sudanese people extended to the Eritrean people until they achieved independence? Is it not worth noting that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was the one who refuted the current U.S. Administration's allegations about terrorism in Sudan, while some of the latter's own people are volunteering to confirm these charges?

It is difficult to claim that everything the Sudanese regime does is sound and positive. There are, without doubt, some reservations, particulary about the lack of democracy, but when the plot goes so far as trying to undermine security, drown the country in civil wars, and strengthen the secessionists and supply them with the means to sustain the war of attrition in the country, then many of the reservations should be set aside, at least temporarily. Sudan's unity, national independence, and dignity as a sovereign state must take priority over all other considerations.

Garang on Alliance Meeting, Self-Determination

JN1202112794 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 7-13 Feb 94 pp 15-17

[Interview with John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA, by 'Afaf Zayn; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zayn] Since the issuance of the Washington declarartion, the National Democratic Grouping [NDG] has not been able to convene its congress and adopt a unified stand on the peoples' right to self-determination in southern Sudan and the neglected areas. This is despite the fact that the SPLA considers self-determination a firm strategic position that will discuss with the Sudanese Government under the sponsorship of the IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development] states. Are you concerned over the NDG's failure to reach a unified stand on the principle of self-determination?

[Garang] All the constitutional documents endorsed by the NDG, the last of which was the Nairobi declaration, include the right of the south and the neglected areas to self-determination. In light of this, the failure to reach an agreement on a meeting to reformulate what has previously been accepted is a political setback that cannot be understood. The right to self-determination is a basic component of democracy and human rights. Therefore, if the NDG denies this right of the people of the south and the neglected area, the parties to the NDG will be placed on an equal footing with the party oppressing the people in the south and their ethnic and religious sects.

I believe that the basic issue that must be discussed is not just the right to self-determination, but also the objective circumstances that forced broad sectors of the Sudanese people to demand the right to self-determination. The scheduled meeting of the NDG will not discuss the right to self-determination, but will reach agreement on the best way to topple the Sudanese regime and to reach an understanding on running the country in the stage that will follow the downfall of the regime.

In the past, I proposed Harare as a possible venue for the NDG meeting. Cairo was also mentioned as a possible venue. The meeting will be held when the appropriate circumstances become available. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] If the NDG fails to adopt a position supporting the right to self-determination, which the SPLA views as a basic point in its negotiating strategy, what will be the fate of the alliance?

[Garang] The NDG parties cannot reject the principle of self-determination after they have already accepted it as an article in constitutional documents worked out by the alliance. I think that the collapse of the current regime in Khartoum will lead to a stage where there will be no need to call for self-determination when the reasons that led to these calls are removed. But if the call for self-determination continues after the collapse of the current regime, it will mean that the successor regime has also failed to offer a final solution to the problems in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] If certain influential northern voices within the alliance continue to reject the right to self-determination despite their previous acceptance and their commitment to the constitutional documents that contain this principle, and if the SPLA—with its two wings—continues to adhere to the right to self-determination for the south and the neglected areas, will the NDG remain a viable alliance framework between the SPLA and the northern parties, despite this dilemma that is threatening its existence? What form of relations link you to your allies in the northern parties?

[Garang] Our alliance is, in the first place, with the Sudanese people, and these relations are based on joint efforts to topple the current regime. If this objective is not realized, stability and peace in the region around Sudan will be in question. The current regime wants to incite instability and political confusion, and wants to strike at the peaceful coexistence in eastern Africa and the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Condemns UN Human Rights Report

EA1302165394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Sudan has said that paragraphs occurring in the report of Gaspard Biru, . ho is the special rapporteur on human rights in Sudan, represent a deliberate insult to the Islamic religion, and they make it necessary to interrogate the author of the report and be condemned by all states, authorities and organizations, which respect the rights of man and humanity. This is because of the insult against Islam included in the report.

In a statement issued yesterday by the Foreign Ministry in this connection, it strongly condemned the insult addressed by the rapporteur against the Islamic religion and its beliefs. The Foreign Ministry demanded the ommission of the paragraphs from the report touching on this matter. The statement pointed out that Biru's report is part of a bigger plot targeting the Islamic religion and its beliefs.

Rebel Leader Urges UN Intervention in Southern Conflict

AB1202131094 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 12 (AFP)—A Sudanese rebel leader on Saturday called on the UN to intervene to stop what he called the Islamic fundamentalist government's extermination and enslavement of people in the mainly Christian south.

Riak Machar, head of one of two rival factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said Khartoum's military government had taken advantage of the rebels' divisions to launch its biggest offensive ever in the past two months. "An estimated four million people are at risk of death in south Sudan due to the Sudan government military offensive, drought and starvation," Machar told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

UN officials said at least two million people were threatened with starvation in the rebel-held south, as well as another two million displaced southerners living in squalid camps around Khartoum. They said the offensive was driving 140,000 southerners towards the Ugandan border. "The deplorable and despicable practices of slavery and slave trade have surfaced," Machar said.

Speaking a day after UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali expressed concern about the escalation of the war and widespread human rights violations by all sides, Machar accused government forces of kidnapping children and selling them to Sudanese farmers and to Saudi Arabia and Libya.

He said the government was "exporting its brand of Iranian Islamic fundamentalism to neighbouring states of Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda." Eritrea has complained of attacks by terrorist groups based in Sudan.

Machar urged the United Nations to appoint a peace mediator to negotiate an end to the decades-old conflict between the Arabised north and the largely black south which erupted into full-scale civil war in 1983.

Machar, who broke with SPLA leader John Garang in 1991 to form the SPLA-United splinter group, urged the United Nations to impose an oil and arms embargo on Sudan, "establish safe havens for civilians in south Sudan, and put pressure on Khartoum to accept an immediate ceasefire and allow in relief supplies." He said the United Nations should send peacekeepers if Khartoum refused to comply, dismissing suggestions that the world body could not despatch troops without government approval.

"There is no government in south Sudan," Machar said. "The government is in the north. We have been fighting one another for the past 40 years. The war is a result of imposed unity and imposed Arabic, Islam, racial hatred and religious intolerance."

Western diplomats, however, said the United Nations was unlikely to intervene in Sudan after its debacle in Somalia. They also noted that intervention would be complicated because the conflict was three-sided, as Machar's Nuer tribesmen had often fought Garang's Dinka forces. Machar denied Garang's accusation that his forces had fought on the government's side.

The two rebel factions agreed in December to press for a referendum on southern self-determination, a demand rejected by the government which fears secession of the south.

The government has banned relief flights to key destinations along the southern border with Uganda while sending warplanes and tens of thousands of troops south in what diplomats said looked like a final push to crush the rebellion. Most foreign relief workers have been forced to leave.

Machar accused Khartoum of "using food as a weapon" and trying to "exterminate the civilian population of south Sudan by starvation."

Iraqi Transport Minister Arrives, Comments

JN1402174294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Feb (INA)—Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil, arrived here today within the context of a trade protocol Iraq and Sudan have signed in the field of transportation.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Khartoum, Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil said his four-day visit to Sudan seeks to promote constant bilateral cooperation in the field of transportation, to discuss the exchange of expertise, and to encourage visits by officials from both countries so they may learn about the potential for bilateral cooperation in this regard.

The transport and communications minister expressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate fully and constructively with the fraternal Sudanese, and to provide them with technical expertise in this regard to foster strong and special ties between the two countries—ties that will realize the aspirations and ambitions of their peoples—in order to overcome difficult circumstances and break the embargo imposed on Iraq.

French Reject Efforts To Mediate in Algeria

PM1102154494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Rabeh Kebir Criticizes Khartoum Move; France Turns Down Sudanese Offer To Mediate With Algerian Salvation Front"]

[Text] London—High-ranking French sources confirmed yesterday that the French Government had turned down a Sudanese offer for Sudanese circles to play the role of "honest broker" between the Algerian Government and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

However, contacts between Sudanese authorities and Israel over Khartoum's mediation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the occupied territories have continued in Europe and the United States.

The Sudanese move took place in December when "mutual friends" conveyed a message from Khartoum to Paris. The Sudanese message said that an alliance between "the Armed Forces and Islamists along the lines of the Sudanese model" could solve the Algerian problem. A senior Sudanese intelligence officer visited Paris twice in January and met with Defense Ministry officials.

The French sources confirmed that a meeting was held between Colonel Jean-Claude Mantione [as transliterated], an expert in black Africa affairs, and the Sudanese general. However, the sources said that the meeting did not broach the situation in Algeria. Instead, the two men discussed the regional dispute between Central Africa and Sudan. There are reports that Bangui is planning to occupy a strip of Sudanese territory which it claims belongs to it.

First reports about the secret contacts between Paris and Khartoum emerged last month. The news provoked opposition and criticism from Sudanese opposition leaders in Cairo. They met with the French ambassador in Cairo. He denied the report, describing them as baseless.

Khartoum has for some time persisted in presenting itself to the West as a mediator with fundamentalist forces in Africa and the Middle East. And Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, expressed his support for the agreement between the PLO and Israel. He also criticized Algerian FIS leader Abassi Madani for not taking account of France's opinion during the general elections two years ago.

FIS leaders in exile have rejected Khartoum's move vis-a-vis Algeria. In a press interview yesterday Rabeh Kebir said that he had heard about these contacts from the media only. He said "if that is true, it is regrettable, because it represents a biased move in favor of the military group in Algeria."

Contacts with Israel began in Geneva last year when two Sudanese envoys met with a Swiss businessman close to Tel Aviv.

Western intelligence sources say that Khartoum offered to help win over the support of the Palestinian rejectionist movements, especially Hamas, opposed to the agreement between the PLO and Israel. In return, Khartoum wanted Israel to help to open the channel of dialogue with Washington.

In December Hasan al-Turabi persuaded the Islamic Conference in Khartoum not to adopt hard-line positions against the West and Israel.

Khartoum's attempt to move closer to Paris is attributable to the Sudanese belief that France is seeking to open a dialogue with some of the "isolated regimes," including Iran and Iraq.

But the French sources said that "no wants to buy what Sudan is offering." Khartoum's recent initiatives have led to a state of coolness in relations with Tehran. Late last year Iranian media services described al-Turabi's attempt to mediate in Afghanistan as "suspicious." Tehran turned down al-Turabi's request to visit it to discuss Afghanistan, so the mediation failed before it began. Western analysts say that recent Sudanese moves are linked with the deterioration of economic conditions and the Sudanese leadership's hopes of neutralizing the West while the Sudanese Army prepares to launch large-scale new military operations in the south.

France's Juppe Arrives for 3-Day Official Visit

Visit Agenda Detailed

TA1302173694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has arrived on a three-day official visit to Israel. Arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport, he was received by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Tonight the guest will dine with Foreign Minister Peres, and tomorrow the two will hold a working meeting. Also tomorrow, Alain Juppe will meet with the prime minister, the president, MIA's relatives, and the Likud chairman and visit Yad Vashem [holocaust memorial museum]. He is also slated to tour the Gaza Strip in the course of his visit.

Lord MacKay, the British shipping and aviation secretary [title as heard], is also expected in Israel tonight. He is accompanied by representatives of British airlines and shipping companies, who will discuss joint projects with Israeli businessmen.

Peres, Juppe Discuss Cooperation

TA1402092694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Reacting to yesterday's attack against the Shin Bet men near Ramallah, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this morning that Israel will take all the steps possible from the military and legal viewpoints to prevent attacks against Israeli civilians and security personnel without any relation to the peace talks and, at the same time, will pursue the political negotiations. Mr. Peres made these remarks to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Minister Peres met with visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe this morning. Following the meeting, the guest said that beginning next month, Israelis visiting France for short periods will not require visas. The two ministers also agreed on bilateral space research cooperation. It was also reported that Israel and France will tighten their political and military relations, especially in the research sphere.

Rabin, Juppe Meet

TA1402120094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] The French defense minister is also slated to arrive in Israel next month. This was reported during the meeting between French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a short while ago in Jerusalem. Rabin thanked the French minister for approving the European mandate for negotiations on updating the economic agreement between the EC and Israel. Rabin also thanked Juppe for canceling the need for entry visas for Israelis visiting France.

Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that Rabin and the French foreign minister discussed developments in the peace talks, and Mr. Juppe disclosed that France is trying to promote the establishment of a television station in the territories. Rabin said that Israel would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian television station only within the context of a full agreement with the Palestinians on Gaza-Jericho First.

Juppe Meets Likud Knesset Members

TA1402194494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe met this afternoon with Likud Knesset members [MK]. MK Binyamin Netanyahu told Juppe that the concept that every ethnic minority should have a state is dangerous for Europe even more than it is for Israel. That is why Likud is offering autonomy for the Palestinians. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the meeting was attended by MK's Moshe Qatzav, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, and Tzahi Hanegbi.

Juppe on NATO Ultimatum, Serbs

LD1402204194 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Alain Juppe, who is currently visiting Israel, repeated that the NATO ultimatum was not a bluff:

[Begin Juppe recording] The NATO decision is not bluff. It is a real ultimatum, and it is up to the UN Protection Force command to tell us when the ultimatum expires, whether the alliance demands—which were drawn up in narrow consultation with the UN secretary- general—are met or not. If they are not met, then we will have to draw the conclusions. In other words, we will have to destroy the artillery positions that have not been pulled back. If the demands are met, then all the best. You know, I have kept repeating—when I was in Zagreb, in Sarajevo—that there is no lasting solution other than a diplomatic and political one. [end recording]

Article Views Juppe's Visit

BR1402133594 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Feb 94 p 4

[Article by Pierre Rousselin: "Alain Juppe in the Middle East—Israel: France's Contribution to Extensive Peace"]

[Text] Traditionally a friend of the [French] Socialists, Israel's Labor government seems more comfortable with a Gaullist at the helm of France's diplomacy. On Alain Juppe's arrival yesterday for his first official visit there, Jerusalem celebrated the markedly improved relations the two countries have enjoyed since the new French Government came into power.

Diplomacy is not immune from paradox—and the bitter memories left by [former socialist foreign ministers] Claude Cheysson and Roland Dumas only serve to accentuate today's favorable climate. "This time we do

not have to wonder what the minister is going to lecture us on," an Israeli diplomat told French correspondents yesterday.

Newspapers indicate that Alain Juppe was the first French foreign minister to come to the Israeli Embassy for the Independence celebrations—in May 1993—since the Six Day War. A symbolical gesture, but a welcome one.

In any event, since the Oslo agreement and the beginning of the dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat, a diplomatic "slip" has become unlikely. This is something the Israelis now do very well by themselves. For instance, new Labor Party Leader Nissim Zvili [name as published] has said that a Palestinian State is an unavoidable perspective, just like that of the Golan Heights being returned to Syria.

Before leaving Jordan, Alain Juppe simply stated on Israeli television that "meeting the deadlines" is a necessity if the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is to be achieved: "It is important to prevent the peace process from getting bogged down: time is not on the side of those who want peace."

In Amman, as his contribution to a peace he wishes will be "extensive," the French foreign minister promised to push for a rescheduling of Jordan's debt at the meeting of Club de Paris creditors next month.

Perspectives

With his Israeli and Palestinian partners, Mr. Juppe will strive to lay the groundwork for France's contribution to the peace process. Already very active within multilateral negotiations, Paris has agreed to head working groups on the economy, refugees, and water-related issues. As regards infrastructure projects, French firms try to position themselves in the perspective of an actual peace.

Mr. Juppe's visit takes place after the Cairo "breakthrough" on security, at a time when negotiations on the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho have resumed in Taba, Egypt. On the agenda: the Palestinian police force and issues relating to water and electricity supply, as well as telecommunications and the Palestinian radio and television, a project in which France is a partner.

The Israelis hope that improved relations between the two countries will afford Mr. Juppe an opportunity to announce the lifting of the visa requirement imposed on Israeli citizens wishing to go to France since the 1986 terrorist bombings in Paris. This has not been facilitated by [Interior Minister] Charles Pasqua's decision to require exit visas from Palestinians leaving France, thus putting them in the same class as Iranians, Iraqis, Afghans, or Libyans.

The visit's highlight will take place tomorrow with Alain Juppe going to the Gaza strip, where he intends to visit the Chati [name as published] seaboard refugee camp. The first French foreign minister to go to Gaza, Mr. Juppe made it clear to [Police Affairs Minister] Shahal that he did not want to be escorted by jeeps. Consequently, he had to sign a letter releasing Israeli authorities from any responsibility as to his personal safety. "With the perspectives opened by the Gaza and Jericho agreement, we must show that the Gaza strip can be viable without an Israeli presence," French sources argue.

Rabinovich Interviewed on U.S. Administration

TA1102162494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 94 p 18

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Drora Perl, in his Washington office 'this week']

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Perl] How do you sum up your first year as Israel's ambassador to Washington, and how do you view the current situation compared to that of a year ago?

[Rabinovich] What is important is not that I have been in this post for a year, but that it is the first anniversary of the Clinton administration and Israel's relations with this administration. I prefer to look at it that way.

It was a very good year for these ties, springing from the administration's basically friendly approach and the understanding formed between the two states on the peace process. It is true that the understanding began in the final months of the Bush administration, but it could not find expression then because the administration was fighting unsuccessfully for its political life.

Another factor is the chemistry, or the good relations, between the President, the secretary of state, and other senior officials in the U.S. Administration, with Israeli leaders. It could perhaps be exemplified by the fact that when Foreign Minister Peres visited Washington last week he almost did not have to deal with bilateral issues, since these are being dealt with and their situation is fine. That is perhaps the best way to describe the relations at the end of the Clinton administration's first year in office.

[Perl] What bilateral issues are you referring to?

[Rabinovich] A year and a half ago there was confrontation over the loan guarantees and the aid was put into question. Up to several months ago there were still restrictions on technological cooperation between the two states, which did not permit us to compete in the U.S. market. The current situation is that we have received a package of aircraft—F-14A's and F-16's—following the prime minister's visit here in November, the refurbishing the Air Force's working fleet, the replacement of its spearhead, and I can go on and on.

[Perl] Can we say that the main contributing factor is the presence of a sympathetic administration which is ideologically closer to the present Israeli Government, or to the existence of the peace process, or to some combination of the two?

[Rabinovich] It is a symbiotic process in which the basic sympathy and common outlook on the peace process and the fact that the Middle East is viewed as one of the areas of success for the administration's foreign policy, are all aspects which feed on each other. You can perform an intellectual exercise and try to give more importance to one of the elements at the expense of the others, but I do not see any point in it.

[Perl] Is there a single component within the framework of relations that makes up the backbone, and if it becomes problematic then the entire system becomes problematic?

[Rabinovich] No, I think that one of the secrets of the success of the special relationship between the United States and Israel is that it is a basket containing various things, so that even when part of the system does not function properly at various times, it manages to survive thanks to its other parts. There were times when the Pentagon or the White House were friendlier than the State Department or the other way around, and there were times that Congress was considered Israel's safety net in the bilateral ties. The Jewish community is, of course, a permanent asset. The international situation keeps changing. In the '50's, for example, at the peak of the Cold War, Israel was considered a burden. During the late '60's and '70's it was an asset. Every time there was a dominant element and other elements which had an impact on relations. That is one of the secret of their charm.

[Perl] Assuming he is confirmed as deputy secretary of state, how do you see Strobe Talbott's role in the peace process and relations with Israel in view of the initial jarring notes concerning his nomination?

[Rabinovich] His position (to date he has been the State Department's ambassador-at-large for Russia and the former Soviet republics—author's note) should be given the same importance that is attached to the role Dennis Ross plays in our region. Talbott was successful in his job as a regional expert, and a man who has been successful in one region should be expected to do the same in another region or in another job. I expect Dennis Ross to continue playing a leading and decisive role in the Middle East, while Talbott sees to general organizational and policy matters in the State Department, not necessarily pertaining to the Middle East.

Clearly, the deputy secretary of state will also deal with the Middle East, which is a key issue in the administration's foreign policy. However, I believe that Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Special Ambassador Dennis Ross will continue to do most of the work in this region.

I do not want to make any personal comments about Talbott, who is in the midst of a hearing and confirmation process. However, I can say that our paths crossed in the year that he has been doing this job and our work together was very pleasant and effective.

[Perl] Upon assuming office, the Clinton administration described its role in the peace process as that of a "honest broker" or a "full partner." The description has not changed, but the substance has. First there was an attempt to terminate the separate rounds of negotiations in Washington and treat the talks as one package, and now we are back to rounds of talks. The latest round was held on the level of delegation heads and as far away from the media as possible. The Americans were seen working behind the scenes. Has the administration's role changed and, if so, how?

[Rabinovich] Obviously, the role changed because the process and circumstances changed. Clearly, after the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Oslo and the ceremony in Washington the peace process is not what it was before.

Looking back, the members of the peace team did a lot of work on the Palestinian track last spring in Washington. Some of this work contributed to the success in Oslo. Oslo cannot be explained without Washington. The situation has changed because the main talks on the Palestinian track are being held elsewhere.

The administration does not get involved because it does not want to become an arbiter between the Palestinians and us. However, both sides update the administration and keep it in the picture.

The administration is more active today on the Syrian track than on the Palestinian one. As the peace process makes headway and agreements are attained, I expect there will be other developments and work procedures will change.

Indeed, the administration is no less involved today. The President himself became involved in the Syrian track when he met al-Asad in Geneva.

[Perl] The Americans submitted their own draft proposals on the Palestinian track. Should we expect them to do the same on the Syrian track?

[Rabinovich] They did that only when the sides solicited it. We do not yet need it at this point, and the Americans will definitely will not impose themselves by submitting compromise proposals. [passage omitted]

[Perl] During his visit here last week, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres mentioned for the first time that in view of "the exorbitatnt price" the Syrians are demanding for peace, he expects them to bring most of the Arab world into the circle of reconciliation with Israel. Is this a new element in the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] It is not a new element, but a new emphasis; by way of making the best of a bad deal. In

other words, if the Syrians claim they are the key to a comprehensive agreement and if they claim, quite justifiably, that they have influence over other countries, a breakthrough with Syria should be expected to lead to a reconciliation or to peace with most of the Arab world.

The Americans will definitely want to be involved in such a process. They know about this idea, they think it is an excellent one, and they will be happy to help.

[Perl] Has it been raised in the talks with the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] Not yet.

[Perl] Has al-'Allaf heard about it?

[Rabinovich] He most certainly has, seeing that it was voiced publicly. However, it is too early to discuss it. We will be able to discuss it in a more concrete manner when we are closer to attaining an agreement. [passage omitted]

[Perl] Vice President Al Gore termed the meeting between Clinton and al-Asad "a huge breakthrough." Dennis Ross said this week that it was not a breakthrough but only "a beginning." What caused the "amendment" of the U.S. assessment?

[Rabinovich] I believe perspective is a wonderful tool. Now everybody sees Geneva in a different perspective.

[Perl] Was the reassessment caused by the death of al-Asad's son, owing to the fact that it may have held up developments in the aftermath of the meeting?

[Rabinovich] I do not think Basil's death changed the way in which the Geneva meeting is seen. The effect of this development cannot yet be assessed by anybody.

In the meantime, we have discussed the Geneva meeting with the Americans. It is no secret that we were less enthusiastic about it than the Americans. Now, with a perspective of three weeks, they see it as the beginning of something rather than as the middle or end of something.

[Perl] The negotiations resume next Tuesday. What can we expect in the 13th round of talks with the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] President Clinton stated this week that Syria must demonstrate its willingness and the seriousness of its intentions with regard to peace with Israel. He was referring to the so-called public diplomacy which should be part of the negotiations.

The fact that the President made such a statement definitely carries weight. The Syrians are not indifferent to what the Americans say.

I definitely do not live with a sense of urgency. The Syrians must elaborate on their position concerning the two issues currently on the agenda: the security arrangements and the time factor.

[Perl] In short, how would you sum up this past year and what do you yourself wish for your second year?

[Rabinovich] I end this year with a good feeling. We made many small steps as well as a major breakthrough. I would like to see another major breakthrough this coming year.

Military Official Interviewed on Situation in Lebanon

TA1102142494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 11 Feb 94 pp 9, 10

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, by Arye Kiesel; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mordekhay] Hizballah is not an invincible enemy. It must be understood that the terrain is hilly. Hizballah men come out of the villages on roads we are not watching. They cross mountains, river beds, rocks, and come within dozens of meters of our troops. They make use of the poor visibility and rough terrain, and the result on our end is painful. We have a problem with pinpointing intelligence on them, and we do not always have answers or information when they go on an operation, from where, and their goals.

[Kiesel] Does that mean that we will have to live with the harsh reality of having victims?

[Mordekhay] No. Their method of operation presents a difficulty. This is a type of guerrilla that comes out of areas that are not under our control, from civilian terrain of which they make full use. We will find ways and methods to hurt them. Last year, we carried out thousands of operations that proved themselves.

We are dealing with 130 km of a very hilly border. It is not all that simple. Hizballah does not have any bases or training sites. They work out of mosques and from inside a civilian population that is often held hostage. We cannot harm the population, but we will find ways to hurt Hizballah.

Compared with events in the security zone, one must remember that the our northern settlements live in full security. Not a single katyusha has been fired at the north since July. Furthermore, all attempts by terror squads to reach the border fence or get near it have been thwarted.

Last year was very painful for Hizballah. They suffered 126 fatalities from our activity—the highest figure ever—and there are certainly more fatalities and casualties we do not know of.

[Kiesel] Is a war being waged in south Lebanon?

[Mordekhay] I never said that. There is a confrontation, there are battles, clashes, and exchanges of fire. I do not call this war. Anyone who wants to extend the definition of war or call it that is welcome to do so. War has certain

characteristics which are not present here. In the security zone, we are constantly dealing with the situation.

[Kiesel] The deputy chief of staff called it war.

[Mordekhay] I know what the chief of staff and his deputy mean. They do not mean war in the broad sense of the word, where both parties employ their full forces; we certainly do not. There are exchanges of fire, clashes, and casualties. There are daily incidents. In a war you use all the means available to win.

[Kiesel] Does last week's incident in which four soldiers were killed and five injured in a Hizballah ambush indicate an escalation?

[Mordekhay] There has been a significant escalation in Hizballah activity over the past two weeks. They have been planting bombs and shooting antitank and Sagger missiles. The political process has an impact on Hizballah. It fears that the process with Syria is making progress, and that this would reduce their freedom of operation in the future, hence they are trying to demonstrate their force. When their activity dropped, they encountered pressure to resume activity. Also, without doubt, they are seriously influenced by the unprecedented scope of their recent arms and equipment procurements.

[Kiesel] Does the equipment come from Iran?

[Mordekhay] Absolutely. Iran sent dozens of Sagger missiles and hundreds of mortar bombs, as well as many other means, backing, money, guidance, and training, which led to a significant escalation.

[Kiesel] Does this mean that they have surprisingly recovered from Operation Accountability?

[Mordekhay] Absolutely. They suffered more than 100 fatalities last year, but they filled out the ranks with new recruits. A vacuum was created after Operation Accountability. Lebanese residents called on the government to send in the army, to help. The Lebanese Government tried to send in a battalion, but the Syrians prevented it from taking steps against Hizballah. As a result, Hizballah gained strength, started rebuilding itself, and—enjoying an incredible cash flow from Iran—in fact, strengthened its hold in the villages. Until Syria allows the Lebanese Government to deploy its Army freely in south Lebanon, Hizballah will have a good time.

[Kiesel] How deep is Hizballah-Iran cooperation?

[Mordekhay] Very deep and very tight. We know they are exchanging information, training, and advice. The Hizballah leadership travels to Iran for guidance, explanations, and ideas. They do not go there for vacation or to visit massage parlors, but to be trained.

[Kiesel] Your description indicates that the terror attacks cannot be prevented.

[Mordekhay] They can be reduced, but not totally eliminated. Our activity, in most cases, aims to reduce their freedom of operation and make them pay a price before they reach their goal, before leaving a base, or during contact with them. In the vast majority of the incidents we do manage to hit them from a distance.

[Kiesel] Why is the Air Force not employed to prevent ambushes such as happened last week?

[Mordekhay] The Air Force has its limitations, it cannot discover such ambushes. We use Air Force assault helicopters against specific targets. I do not believe, however, that the Air Force can significantly change the state of affairs here.

[Kiesel] Do you not feel that in fighting Hizballah the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has its hands tied for fear a retaliation of katyushas could be fired at the northern settlements?

[Mordekhay] Absolutely not. No one has tied our hands. The political guidance we receive is very clear to us. We are serious people. We do consider the implications of our activity on the settlements of the north. We saw what happened when the situation deteriorated and they were hurt. [passage omitted]

[Kiesel] Do you believe that, once we reach agreement with them, the Syrians will curb Hizballah and discipline them?

[Mordekhay] I have no doubt about this. If Syria used its influence, it could significantly reduce the Hizballah military operability. It could stop the transfer of means to them. It could allow the Lebanese Army to deploy there. The Lebanese Army has done that throughout Lebanon, but has not lifted a finger in the areas adjacent to the security zone.

Syria is a key player. Syria acting the innocent last week and saying that it does not take part in Hizballah activity is not acceptable to us. Acting naive like this is unbecoming of a rattlesnake, not even one that breeds in Damascus. Had it wanted to, Syria could curb and significantly stop Hizballah. It is a question of a Syrian decision. If they wanted, the Lebanese Army could be stationed there, and it could cooperate with the IDF in dealing with Hizballah, removing them from the villages, and closing down the military supplies routes from Iran.

[Kiesel] Do you know for certain of a terror act that the Syrians knew of in advance?

[Mordekhay] We cannot establish a direct link between a Syrian order or instruction and a terror act; the connection is merely circumstantial. Yet, Hizballah would like to fire katyushas at Israel, but it does not dare because it understands there are agreements which should not be deviated from. What reason did they have to abstain from activity for 10 days during the Clinton-al-Asad summit? These were the quietest days I can recall. There is a hand that guides Hizballah, and it comes from Syria.

[Kiesel] Do you believe al-Asad aims for peace?

[Mordekhay] Al-Asad understands the international and Middle Eastern strategic situation. At the same time, al-Asad has in no way dropped the military option. Along with conducting the political process, the Syrian military buildup continues. I believe al-Asad wants to attain Syrian interests and national goals in peaceful ways. If he fails, all options are open.

[Kiesel] The Intelligence Branch appreciates he wants peace. Major General 'Uzi Dayan, however, said that if the political process gets stuck, a limited military operation is to be expected in 1994. What do you think?

[Mordekhay] I would not put a time frame on this, not even in terms of years. A process starts and no one knows when it will end or where it will leads. It must be understood that the other option—the military option—exists on the level of the ability in the field and on the conceptual level. When will it be used? When someone feels there is no other way.

[Kiesel] Do you mean that you do not rule out a Syrian military move, should all other options fail?

[Mordekhay] Our working assumption should be very clear: Syria is able to do it. The question is when. Knowing the IDF and Northern Command's power, I would urge him to think twice before making a move of a military nature. I believe he is aware of this. We have the power, and we have proved we will use it against anyone who tries to put our existence at risk.

[Kiesel] Has the Northern Command been asked to prepare withdrawal or redeployment plans for the Golan Heights?

[Mordekhay] No. No one in the command, including mys?lf, is engaged in any plans that have political bearings. All of the plans I deal with, all the preparations, are within the scope of providing an answer in case someone does something, God forbid. Nothing else is happening in the Northern Command.

[Kiesel] If Syria means peace, would you recommend getting off the Golan Heights?

[Mordekhay] This is a political issue. I believe a military man should not, and must not, comment on such issues. When the Israeli Government has thoughts and potential scenarios, it will apparently present them to the people in charge of the Army and the territory in the command. We will present our assessments then. The problem is that the Golan Heights is too small for waging a modern war and reducing damage. If the threat is eliminated, or if there is another threat, we will have to examine the meaning and make political decisions. [passage omitted]

Article Examines Ramon's 'Labor Circle'

TA1102120494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 4 Feb 94 pp 12, 13

[Article by Nehama Doweq: "The Making of an Octet"]

[Text] It is 8:30 PM at the presidential suite of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Jerusalem. Resigning Health Minister Hayim Ramon is the first to arrive. Down at the reception they notified him that in view of the recent events and due to their sympathy for him, this time he will be awarded the presidential suite, room No. 2014.

The other members of his group slowly gather—Avraham Burg, Hagay Merom, 'Amir Peretz, Ya'el Dayan, Nawaf Musaliha, Shmu'el Avital, and last and late as usual, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Ramon told them of the thousands of letters and cables that arrived at his office, and they all sat there basking in the light of his last, successful, trick.

As usual, Burg warns Dayan, Musaliha, and Avital that they may not smoke. This has become a ritual in their meetings: He makes a threat, and they cling to the balcony door and blow their smoke out to the Jerusalem skies. Burg pulls out his laptop computer on which he documents each of their meetings and they start talking.

This is a very tight gang. They are friends, and have similar ideas on both social and political issues. They have been together for years. This togetherness is the source of their power within Labor. They make up the only Labor circle that holds eight Knesset members, which can be a decisive factor in any of the Knesset faction decisions.

They also attract a lot of hatred and envy. One is a minister; two (Beilin and Musaliha) are deputy ministers; three of them chair Knesset committees—Education and Culture (Burg), Labor and Social Welfare (Peretz), and the House Committee (Merom). Ya'el Dayan used to chair the subcommittee on women's rights.

The group has undergone changes. Once, it was made up of 17 members; this was toward the end of 'Uzi Bar'am's term as Labor director general. Some of the group conspired against the establishment of a national unity government. The group broke up and a septet was created: Ramon, Beilin, Burg, Peretz, Musaliha, Nisim Zvili, and Merom. A clear and unequivocal political line held them together. The archrivals of today—Ramon and Zvili—were once brothers in arms.

The cutoff started when five of the six [as published] were elected to the Knesset while Zvili, who really did not want to, chose to stay with the Jewish Agency. Working at the Knesset, however, brought the five closer together, which began to cast a shadow on Zvili. Also, Ramon was chairman of the Labor faction and coalition whip, hence he was able to hand out benefits to the Knesset members—mainly podium time. Zvili had

nothing to offer. At the same time, Ramon began to be noticed and spoiled by the media.

Today, Hagay Merom says that all those years, until the absolute rift between them, it was clear that the group was headed by Ramon and Zvili. It was clear to all that someday, the two would face each other in the struggle over party leadership. Incidentally, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is not just waiting in the corner. Presently, he earnestly crisscrosses Israel, gaining incredible strength.

Burg, who, contrary to Ramon, did not hesitate to back Zvili in the struggle over the role of party director general, says: "Zvili is extremely talented. He never tells a lie. He keeps silent if he does not want to say something. Ramon, on the other hand, will tell me in response to my question: 'You better watch television on such and such date; I will screw you there.'"

"All of us," Burg continues, "have no problem with paying the political price for our concepts. The only difference is that we feel we have a duty. After all, if Ramon, Beilin, and I should start up a business of political counsels, we would be the best in Israel. Each one of us has an alternative. Beilin once said that he wants to leave the political life as a person whose stands are clear and well-known."

[Doweq] You are so talented, and yet you fail the big tests.

[Burg] We fail in every narrow-based public test. We will be beaten every time when we take on the establishment and fight it with our hands tied behind our back. In the primaries, however, this group will score very high."

[Doweq] All of you? Peretz hardly made it to the Knesset and Dayan was moved forward only because she was a woman.

[Burg] Okay, not all of us. There is natural selection; even Darwin said that. [end Burg]

Since the rift with Zvili, there have been no personal clashes in the octet. It would seem, Merom says, that each of us has found his field of operation and political advantages. Ramon and Beilin are our yuppies. We have a red-neck moshavnik, a kibbutznik, a woman, a resident of a development town, and an Arab.

"They are trying to say we are an elitist group, but the fact is that our group best represents the Israeli society. Often we joke about the fact that we have three oriental Jews among us—'Amir Peretz, Shmu'el Avital, and... Nawaf Musaliha." Merom also speaks of personal friendship among the group members. They all visited each others' homes.

In their meetings they speak freely. They also distribute the roles: Ramon will be prime minister; Peretz is to head the Histadrut labor federation; Burg is the only one willing to run for head of the Jewish Agency; Musaliha, deputy health minister, will be the first Arab minister; Hagay Merom is seen as the next Labor chairman; Beilin is and will remain in foreign affairs. Avital and Dayan's roles are not clear as yet; they are newcomers with the group, and have no clearly defined areas of operation.

In 1991, before the Labor convention, they spoke of quitting the party and joining up with the Citizens' Rights Movement. They spent nights talking about this. One night they even flew to Cairo for political talks that Beilin initiated, and continued to debate the issue there. They almost decided to quit. Merom says that Zvili then brought them classified information—which cannot be revealed yet—which proved to support their stands. Eventually, they decided to stay in the party.

Zvili reminded Ramon of that night on the first day of the party conference. I have a feeling, he told Ramon, that you decided to return home only to destroy it from the inside.

Before the previous conference, they drafted a 10-point document and presented it as one to the Party Secretariat. Burg hoisted the banner of separating religion from politics; Merom advocated primaries; Musaliha had a resolution passed, though not implemented, to set up an Arab district in the party; Ramon and Peretz then started throwing rocks at the Histadrut building.

In a fierce speech, Ramon presented his opinion of the Histadrut. He was representing a negligible minority in the party, but scored enormous public sympathy. Seeing the size of support Ramon is gaining, Zvili stood up against him, his group, and his paper on the very occasion. He shook the group. The rift, which according to Zvili started much sooner, has turned into a fact. Today, Zvili says that he had warned them not to make such remarks.

The next day, Zvili seemed better positioned. The group suffered a blow and nearly broke into pieces, while he was appointed head of Peres' election team. During the struggle between Rabin and Peres, Ramon went swimming. Later on, he jumped on Rabin's wagon, befriended him, became closer, did a god job in the public relations campaign, and was appointed minister. Zvili also wanted to be minister, but Ramon spoiled it for him.

Zvili fought back. His big opportunity came when he decided to run for Labor secretary general against Rabin's candidate, Yuval Frenkel. Peres backed Zvili. The octet split. Burg, Merom, and Beilin supported and promoted him. To Ramon's dismay, Zvili won.

Ramon lost again when he wanted to appoint Hagay Merom as chairman of the Labor faction and coalition, and again when the group ran 'Amir Peretz for Histadrut secretary general. The group takes pride for scoring 35 percent of the vote, but Zvili says that even if they were represented by a scarecrow, they would have scored the same support because of the built-in hatred of some of the voters for the Histadrut.

The octet now considers adding members. There are several candidates: Avi Yehezqel, Efrayim Sne, Dalya

Itzik, Rafi Elul. At the same time, Ramon launched a move that would bring in Shim'on Sheves, the Prime Minister's Office director general. There is a serious problem with Hagay Merom, who hates Sheves. He still remembers how, speaking from the Knesset podium, Merom called on Rabin to shut Sheves' mouth.

Ramon's move is calculated and careful. Sheves gains power in the party thanks to his proximity to the prime minister. He is also well situated in the United Kibbutz Movement, Merom's constituency. Ramon: "Sheves has a large group in the party. We share views on many issues and we can cooperate. Personal problems exist on both sides, but I believe they can be handled."

Merom: "Ramon knows I am the key figure in this move, which is why he is careful."

Ramon considers Merom a cunning man. He is said to have a short fuse and blows up quickly.

The number of Labor party circles will soon beat the number of Knesset members: the Next Generation, the Mashov Circle; Hakfar Hayaroq Circle, the Hofit Circle, the Ef'al Circle, the New Direction Circle, 'Amir Peretz' new circle, and the camp Finance Minister Shohat plans to establish.

The octet is made of the Mashov and Kfar Hayaroq Circles. They are mostly talented, intelligent, well spoken, and media favorites. Burg: "We represent a novelty in Israeli politics. This is scary. Our friendship is threatening. There are not many bodies from whose meetings nothing leaks."

Once every week or two they meet in a place set by Ramon. Ronit, his bureau chief, notifies them of the time and place. Usually, the meeting takes place on Monday night. Ramon always arrives at the end. Often he breaks up the forum in the very last moment because of some television appearance. No meeting is held without him. He always opens the meeting with a review of the recent cabinet session. Yosi Beilin will later brief them about "the way things stand," and present his evaluations. Then they will exchange views.

For years, Burg took notes in a notebook which Merom handled when Burg spoke. Now he uses the computer. According to him, he reserves the material for a book he will write one day. In the meantime, the minutes are being kept in Jerusalem bank safe. Only Burg has the key. Burg is the joker of the band.

In their last session they discussed the results of Ramon's resignation, and marked their next struggle: Open primaries in the Labor Party. They know that in open primaries they stand a better chance than inside the establishment.

Zvili: "They are a nice group. Most of them are talented; not all. The fact that they are together makes them a source of power. Yet, they have never faced a real test. I am sorry they opted for total destruction. That is why I could not stay with them. Their hatred for the Histadrut has changed into an obsession."

Israeli Stabbed; Islamic Jihad Band Caught

TA1502063794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0300 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] An Israeli civilian was stabbed at an Ashdod gas station this morning, apparently by an Arab with nationalist motives. The condition of the wounded man, a new immigrant from Russia, is not grave. He was transferred to Kaplan Hospital. Our correspondents Yehudit Yehezqeli and Nisim Qeynan report that the assailant escaped on foot.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 15 February carries an interview with a police officer who says the police have captured an "18-year-old Arab suspect from Gaza, who led police to where he threw the ax he used in the attack."]

A Border Police force captured two members of an Islamic Jihad band in Gaza. Two Uzi submachine guns, which were stolen with eight other submachine guns from Moshav Hodiyya in the south about 10 days ago, were found in their possession.

Faris Abu-Zakar, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Red Eagles in Rafah, wounded Friday in a clash with soldiers, has died of his wounds.

French Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Amman

Juppe Arrives, Makes Statements

JN1202154894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe has said Jordanian-French relations are distinguished, constantly growing, and getting deeper. He said he is satisfied with the move to allow French firms to invest in Jordan.

Upon arrival in Amman today, Juppe said that France is looking forward to the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region and that his visit to Jordan is based on France's concern for supporting the peace process. He added: France has a role to play in the peace process, particularly in the framework of the multilateral talks and the committees in which it is involved, such as economic development, water, and refugee committees.

Juppe said France is seeking to help Jordan reschedule its foreign debt; the amount of which is a burden to the Jordanian economy.

He said France is working through NATO to put an end to the suffering of people in Bosnia and is determined not to miss any opportunity to achieve peace there. The recent NATO decision, he said, has restored confidence and there are encouraging signs now from the parties to the conflict that they will listen to the voice of logic, including the handing over of some heavy weapons to the United Nations.

Juppe was received at Amman civilian airport by Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs; the French ambassador in Amman; and senior Foreign Ministry and French Embassy staff.

King, Juppe Discuss Middle East, Bosnia

JN1202160094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe at the Royal Hashemite Court. They discussed various regional and world issues, as well as the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Cairo last week.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's position to support and back the peace process on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Security Council, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

They also discussed the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and means to cooperate to end the suffering of the Muslims there and achieve security, stability, and peace in that region, which has suffered from tension, conflict, and the violation of human rights and dignity.

Al-Majali Receives Juppe

JN1302124494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and his delegation at his office at the Prime Ministry this morning.

Talks dealt with the friendly bilateral relations and the assistance that France can provide to Jordan in the fields of tourism, transportation, and infrastructure. Discussions also dealt with ways in which France can participate to advance the peace process in the region.

Talks also dealt with ways to ease Jordan's financial difficulties resulting from its commitment to the UN resolutions dealing with sanctions on Iraq and the inspection of ships heading for al-'Aqabah port since France is a member of the UN Sanctions Committee and the Security Council.

The guest minister promised to raise and discuss these issues with the officials in his country in order to achieve the best results.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and the French ambassador in Amman.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian side led by Dr. Abu-al-Ghanam, and the French side led by Alain Juppe, held talks at the Prime Ministry this morning in which bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

In a statement to journalists following the talks, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said that the two sides discussed bilateral relations in the political, economic, and cultural fields with emphasis on a subject that is important to Jordan, that is, Jordan's foreign debts that are beyond Jordan's means, especially since the Paris Club's upcoming meeting late March will discuss rescheduling the Jordanian debts.

Gammu said the guest minister has expressed his country's full understanding of Jordan's position, and his support for Jordan's positions and role in the region, as well as the importance of bolstering this position and easing Jordan's burdens, particularly its foreign debts.

He added that Juppe showed full understanding, and promised to support Jordan during the Paris Club meeting that will discuss rescheduling debts for 1994. These debts amount to about $950 million, excluding the financing gap.

He said: Jordan's demand was not to be restricted to a rescheduling process, which is a way of delaying these debts. Our demand is to ease and reduce these debts because they constitute a burden, and this step will not be easy without the consensus of the international community.

He emphasized that the guest minister promised to extend all appropriate support through the EEC and the Paris Club members.

Juppe Holds News Conference

JN1302145794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stressed the firmness and depth of the long-standing relations between Jordan and France. He reiterated France's appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's wise and moderate views on many international and regional issues.

Speaking at a news conference in Amman today, Juppe said he came to Jordan and the region with two objectives. He said his objectives are represented by reiterating France's commitment to the peace initiative in the region, signed by the Palestinians and the Israelis on 13 September, as well as by expressing appreciation of Jordan's contribution as represented by the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda on 14 September. Furthermore, he added, the visit is designed to stress the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields.

Juppe said France is concerned about helping Jordan reschedule its debts during the upcoming Paris Club meeting. He said an agreement had been reached with the Jordanian officials to review all aspects of the agreement signed between the two countries in 1965 in order to expand it and develop it to be more comprehensive and more effective within the framework of the joint committee between the two countries. This, Juppe added, will foster greater cooperation, noting the French desire to increase cooperation within the civil service.

The French foreign minister said that during his talks with Jordanian officials, he became aware of the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy as a result of the siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah. He stressed France's readiness to alleviate the burden of the embargo on Jordan without detriment to the objectives of the sanctions.

Further on Juppe News Conference

JN1402092794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 94 pp 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Sunday [13 February] his country hoped that the "legal status" of the Holy City of Jerusalem would be discussed during the interim period of Palestinian autonomy rather than fina status negotiations.

"We have a responsibility towards the holy places (in Jerusalem) historically," Mr. Juppe told a press conference Sunday, adding that "we hope that the legal status of Jerusalem can be discussed during the interim period" and not in final status talks.

Middle East peace negotiations were accepted by Israel back in 1991 on the condition that the issue of Jerusalem be deferred till final-status talks despite repeated efforts by Palestinians and other Arab parties to resolve the issue of the Holy City along other territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

Palestinians have grudgingly accepted the delay in negotiations over Jerusalem until final status talks but have repeatedly said that they would not accept a final settlement without Jerusalem.

Israel "annexed" east Jerusalem immediately after the 1967 war and claimed the city as its "eternal capital."

His Majesty King Husayn who severed legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in 1988, has maintained Awqaf (religious) links with the Holy city for fear of creating a "sovereignty vacuum" during interim talks.

Mr. Juppe, in his remarks to the press before leaving Amman to the Nabatean city of Petra on a private visit Sunday, welcomed last week's Israel-Palestine Liberation Oranisation (PLO) accord on security arrangements for Palestinian self-rule.

But he said that Israel must stick to a timetable on withdrawal and transfer of power provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy agreement signed in Washington in September.

"It is true the (security) accord did not solve all problems but it is a positive step in the process," Mr. Juppe said at the end of a 24-hour visit to Jordan, part of a Middle East tour that was to take him to Israel later on Sunday and to Gaza on Tuesday.

"But most importantly, the timetable has to be respected in order not to upset the process and strengthen the opponents of peace," he said.

On Jordanian-French bilateral relations, Mr. Juppe said that he had a dual purpose in visiting Jordan for the second time in four months.

"One purpose is to reiterate my country's commitment to the peace process which we have supported enthusiastically since its first days," Mr. Juppe said.

"I also wanted to underline the warm relations between our two countries," he added.

Mr. Juppe said he met with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Sunday morning as well as the ministers of finance, planning and trade and industry.

He was also received by King Husayn Saturday. "We attach great importance to His Majesty's balanced and moderate vision," Mr. Juppe said.

He reiterated France's backing for Jordan's efforts to reschedule its foreign debts, adding that France would help the Kingdom in debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of official Western creditors which will be held in Paris in March.

He added that his country would also study the possibility of transferring part of the Kingdom's $900 million debt to France "into investment projects."

Mr. Juppe also said France had renewed an 83 million franc ($14 million) financial protocol for Jordan as part of efforts to help Amman cope with its economic problems.

Mr. Juppe also said his country would consider easing inspections of al-'Aqabah-bound ships to help reduce the negative impact on Jordan of the international sanctions against Iraq.

He said France was ready to examine in "an open and constructive manner ways of easing inspections of ships, while maintaining their effectiveness, so that the Jordanian economy is hurt less."

The minister rejected an Israeli Television report that France had lifted its self-imposed restrictions on arms sales to Israel.

"We have not taken such a decision, but we hope military cooperation with Israel will be reviewed," he said.

Mr. Juppe said French Defence Minister Francois Leotard is also expected to visit Israel soon.

On Bosnia, Mr. Juppe also said Paris was not considering an immediate evacuation of its diplomats from war-torn Sarajevo with Western air strikes threatened if the siege of the city is not lifted.

"It is imperative that we remain patient," he said. "We will take all necessary measures as the situation warrants, but it is important that the NATO decision be implemented as soon as possible.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has set a Feb. 20 deadline for the warring factions in Sarajevo to place heavy weapons under U.N. control or move them away from the city.

[Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 14 February on page 22 publishes a similar report on Juppe's news conference with the following addition "Regarding the Iraq embargo, Juppe said all that France wants is Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions, pointing out that France has no premediated intentions to perpetuate the embargo. Juppe wondered whether has Iraq implemented all Security Council resolutions particularly the resolution related to borders between the two countries and the resolution on the sovereignty of Kuwait?"]

AL-ASWAQ Views Juppe's Visit

JN1402124694 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Jordan's Debts, and Mr. Juppe's Visit"]

[Text] The visit to Jordan by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe was an opportunity to renew the talk on Jordan's foreign debts that have burdened its economy and influenced its development requisites.

The minister is aware that these debts were the result of regional and international circumstances that forced Jordan—due to its position—to bear the consequences of these circumstances.

The instability in the region, whose responsibility is shouldered by the entire international community, forced Jordan to be on the longest Arab front with Israel. This exhausted a huge portion of the loans Jordan was forced to seek.

At a time when Israel was receiving all forms of support from the United States and the allied countries, including France, Jordan was not receiving even the Arab assistance decided by Arab summit conferences, whose decisions were not respected. Jordan's share of international support was below what is needed although Jordan was a main victim of the Western allies' support for Israel and the Cold War between the Eastern and Western blocs.

Juppe emphasized that his country will support the rescheduling of Jordan's debts, and the United States had earlier announced that it was seriously studying economic and military support for Jordan. We hope that these encouraging signs would be implemented in order to compensate this country for the losses caused by circumstances that Jordan did not create and for which it is not responsible. Based on its position, message, and principles, Jordan remained committed to its principles and endured the consequences of such commitment and the duties stipulated in the pan-Arab and international charters.

Jordan stands as a main test for the international good intentions toward stability and justice in the Middle East. The more Jordan is compensated for its debts and burden caused by instability and lack of justice, the more the international intentions toward the region and the future relations with it would be in the right direction.

'More Vital' French Role Urged

JN1302085694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-French Talks"]

[Text] The agenda of the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and the visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe expanded to include a number of important topics, including regional and bilateral issues, the Middle

East peace process, and latest developments, especially the Palestinian-Israeli agreement recently concluded in Cairo.

This meeting was a good opportunity for His Majesty King Husayn to emphasize anew the constants of Jordan's firm position in supporting the ongoing peace process and realizing the aspired peace in the region based on the principles of international legitimacy, and the UN and Security Council resolutions led by Resolutions 242 and 338.

In view of the vital role France is playing in the Bosnian crisis, whether its leading role within the EC or the Security Council, it was natural for the Jordanian-French talks to deal with the Bosnian conflict and to discuss ways of cooperation on bringing an end to the tragic situation of the Muslims there, and realize security, stability, and peace in that region.

The broad background of the Jordanian-French relations and the continued positive development in the history of cooperation between Amman and Paris have always allowed for the exchange of views on the basis of mutual respect regarding many issues and subjects that concern the two friendly countries, including economic and cultural cooperation between Jordan and France.

We know beforehand that France can always play a more vital, if not pioneering, role in this region's issues, especially since this leading European state has continued to enjoy political broadmindedness, and its vital role in the Middle East has continued to be welcomed by all parties to the conflict. This qualifies France to play a welcome role in entrenching stability, realizing peace, and accelerating the development process.

Al-Majali Meets UNRWA General Commissioner

JN1402181994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received in his office at the Prime Ministry the commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA], General Ilter Turkmen. The two sides discussed relations and issues of common interest, especially services provided by the UNRWA to refugees, including educational, health, environmental, and infrastructural services as well as public utilities.

Dr. al-Majali thanked Mr. Turkmen for the aid and services provided by UNRWA to the refugees in Jordan. He requested the upgrading of the level of these services in order to improve refugees' living conditions.

In a press statement, Turkmen said he explained to the prime minister how things are going in the West Bank and Gaza. He told him about UNRWA activities and projects to enhance the economic and social situation in the occupied territories. He noted that in Gaza alone, UNRWA is now spending around $80 million on various projects.

He said that during the meeting the two sides discussed developments in the peace process, what the talks have achieved to date, and what the concerned parties were able to accomplish during this process.

About his visit to Jordan, Turkmen said: This visit aims at contacting and holding talks with the Jordanian Government and officials on various issues related to Palestinian refugees. He said this visit is designed to inspect and the situation and the progress of work at the UNRWA branch in Jordan, as well as the activities and services it provides and ways to improve them, through meetings with its members and officials.

Asked about the financial crisis facing the UNRWA, he said: We are facing a financial problem in our general budget. The problem is financing ordinary and current expenses and the services provided by UNRWA, including educational, health, and other services. He added that UNRWA is currently receiving much support from donor states, such as the United States, Japan, and the EC, to finance its projects. He noted that since the signing of the 13 September agreement, UNRWA has been promised about $60 million dollars to implement UNRWA projects.

The meeting was attended by 'Adil Irshayd, minister of state, and Dennis Brown, head of the UNRWA office in Jordan.

Prime Minister Visits Public Security Directorate

JN1402195794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, accompanied by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, today visited the Public Security Directorate. He discussed with Lieutenant General 'Abd-al- Rahman al-'Adwan, director of Public Security, a number of issues dealing with the needs of the public security body and its role in maintaining the security and stability of the Jordanian community.

Regarding the objectives of the visit, Lt. Gen. al-'Adwan said that the prime minister's visit was designed to reassure him about the situation in the public security body and how to meet its needs so it can continue its outstanding performance and loyalty in carrying out its noble mission.

He said the prime minister was briefed on the public security situation in the Kingdom and the qualitative training activities implemented by the public security body to maintain its abilities, preparedness, and the level of performance of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers—something highlighted during recent incidents on a level that calls for pride.

Al-'Adwan said that the prime minister expressed his confidence in and admiration of the level reached by the public security body. He said he is fully reassured about its ability to fully carry out its tasks.

Israeli Aircraft Launch 2 Raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1502094094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out a raid on Mlita hill in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1000 today. One of the planes fired four missiles at the target. The planes continued to fly low over the area until 1010, drawing antiaircraft fire from Lebanese Army positions. At 1030, Israeli aircraft again raided Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli military aircraft flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 0930 today, staging mock raids. The military aircraft were accompanied by an Israeli MK reconnaissance plane.

Amal Officer Assassinated in South Lebanon

NC1502104294 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 15 (AFP)—Assailants killed a military commander of the pro-Syrian Amal movement and wounded his brother in a grenade attack in south Lebanon early Tuesday, security sources said.

They knocked on Muhammad Yaghi's door and when he opened it tossed in the grenade, killing him and wounding his brother, the sources said.

The assailants, who were not identified, escaped after the attack which took place shortly after midnight in Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, just north of Israel's security zone.

Buwayz Receives Christopher's Message on Peace Talks

NC1402185394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Lebanese officials are watching with keen interest this week's developments. After the resumption today of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba to work out the final details of the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the transfer of civilian power, and on the eve of the bilateral negotiations in Washington, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mark Hambley delivered to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz a written message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The ambassador would not reveal the contents of the message, saying only that it deals with the bilateral peace talks that will resume in Washington tomorrow. Hambley expressed optimism about the results of the talks. He said the deliberate tension and violence in southern Lebanon is aimed at undermining the talks. He stressed that his country is eager to maintain the peacekeeping forces in the south as a factor of stability in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Comments on Syrians' 'Positive Role'

PM1502090094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Feb 94 p2

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that "there are two main sound ways of facing developments in the Middle East: consolidating internal unity and building the state's institutions." [passage omitted]

He said that the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon "are playing a positive role in maintaining security." He revealed that "they recently contributed to the arrest of those accused of killing the Jordanian diplomat" Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah. He said that the solution in the region "will not be at Lebanon's expense," referring in this connection to assurances from U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He spoke of an agreement between Lebanon and Syria to sign the peace agreement together once it is achieved "because it is a matter of national security for both countries."

Al-Hariri made these revelations on the evening of the day before yesterday during a "seminar on the issues of the hour" held at the central school attached to the Lebanese Maronite monastery in Juniyah. [passage omitted]

Asked why the al-Ta'if agreement has not been implemented, particularly such matters as dissolution of all the militias, withdrawals of weapons, administrative decentralization, and formation of the economic and constitutional councils, al-Hariri said that "a decree will be issued about the Constitutional Council which has been formed after consultation with the Shura Council." He said that what was meant by decentralization under the al-Ta'if agreement was administrative not political decentralization. He said: "We are talking about Lebanon's unity. We cannot address that and at the same time speak of political decentralization. Lebanon is a small state. Should we divide it into many parts? That is out of the question." [passage omitted]

He said: "I do not believe that there is a single Lebanese who would not condemn the execution which occurred in Ba'labakk. Nobody can defend that and we cannot accept it. The judicial authorities have moved to act in this connection." He stressed the importance "of consolidating the judicial authority and expediting its procedures" within the democratic system.

Asked why the Syrian Army has not been redeployed in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement, al-Hariri replied: "Under the agreement the Syrians are supposed to help the Lebanese state maintain security in the country." He spoke of promises of massive aid from abroad not honored except by three states, namely Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. "We just got advice from other states." He added that "the Army cannot be rebuilt with just words. It takes a major part of the budget, and that is our duty. We are engaged in negotiations with

Israel and agreement on withdrawal may be achieved. We all know that one of the most important conditions for withdrawal is security. That is the duty of the Lebanese state. In other words, a major part of the Lebanese Army would go to the south to assume responsibility for security. Are we now able to maintain security in all parts of the Lebanese Republic or do we need some time and assistance? Some states sent us some aid for the Army, consisting of vehicles, trucks, light weapons, and many promises. In practical terms, we have not received aid that would enable our Army to maintain security in all parts of the Lebanese Republic. We should not hide behind our hands on this matter. Not long ago an official of the Jordanian Embassy was assassinated and the perpetrators were arrested. The truth is that the Syrians contributed to the apprehension of the culprits. Since I assumed my government post the Syrians, I can confirm, have been playing a positive role. We should all seek to strengthen the Army and the Internal Security Forces and in fact all the security authorities so that they can assume responsibility for security throughout the republic."

Asked why there are still Syrian Army barriers in the streets and why the Internal Security Forces should not man these barriers, he replied: "We need the Syrian forces to maintain security. They are present at some barriers and not at others, according to need. These are military matters."

Al-Hariri pointed out that "the position of the state and the government is that the solution in the Middle East will not be at Lebanon's expense. That is what the Americans assured us of in two messages from President Clinton and his secretary of state. Secretary Christopher assured me of this personally, directly after the Geneva summit. To say that the solution would be at Lebanon's expense is out of the question." [passage omitted]

He was asked: If Israel told Lebanon that it was willing to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territory, would the state accept such a withdrawal separately from Syria or would it await the results of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations? He replied: "Israel never said that it was willing to withdraw from Lebanon. It said it was willing to sign a peace agreement with Lebanon. If there is going to be a peace agreement, we and Syria should be together. Resolution 425 means unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. We demand that. When President Hafiz al-Asad met with President Clinton, he asked him openly to implement that resolution. Its implementation means Israel's withdrawal. So let it withdraw. We have no problem with that, nor has Syria, but when it comes to signing a peace agreement with Israel, we and Syria should be together. Why do we say this? Because the matter concerns our national security and Syria's national security." [passage omitted]

He denied deep differences between the three leaders [the prime minister, the president, and the speaker of the chamber of deputies). He expressed the belief that time will correct the experiment. He said that it is inaccurate to use the word hegemony (of one authority over another). [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri emphasized that "there will be no government changes or reshuffle for the time being." He said that the reason there is continuous talk about that "is that there are some who do not like the situation, and the best way of weakening the government is to say that it is on its way out."

He said that, in his view, "the ministers act on the basis that the government will not change for the time being, but that does not mean it will be there forever. It would fall if the Chamber of Deputies withdrew confidence from it or if one third of the ministers resigned, or if the prime minister resigned. I have no intention of resigning at the present time." [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi on Israeli Withdrawal, Resistance

NC1402204794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that Lebanon wants land in return for peace and wants sovereignty over its territory in return for peace. He said resistance is a result, not a cause of the Israeli occupation, and Israel's withdrawal will return things to their old situation. President al-Hirawi reiterated that there can be no just and comprehensive peace before liberating the south and Western al-Biqa', because this is the will of all Lebanese.

President al-Hirawi was speaking at an iftar [fast-breaking] banquet hosted by Mrs. Randa Birri, head of the Lebanese Handicapped Society at the Summerland Hotel. The iftar was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and a number of ministers, deputies, and foreign diplomats.

Country To Resume Iran-Egypt Mediation Efforts

PM1402111094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed political sources said in Cairo yesterday that Damascus is currently preparing to make a new move toward Tehran in the framework of what was termed as a Syrian move to mediate between Cairo and Tehran after an interruption of several months.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Tehran this month. Meanwhile, it has been reported that al-Asad will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this month as well. The political circles said that there is a link between the next Syrian move at this level and the escalation in Hizballah's activities against Israel via southern Lebanon.

The sources said that al-Asad will offer new proposals which could bring views closer between Cairo and Tehran in a renewal of the Syrian endeavor—which was suspended before the end of last year—to correct positions and ease recent factors of tension between them.

The sources also said that the Syrian president will submit to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a report on the development of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the results of his talks in Geneva last month with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the future of peace in the light of the new factors and changes. The sources said that the Syrian move requires regional coordination and support in the framework of strategic interests.

'Necessity' To Safeguard Iraqi Unity Viewed

JN1302212394 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Feb 94 p 8

["Opinion" column: "Unity of Iraqi Territories" by Dr. 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Samad]

[Text] The tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey that concluded its work yesterday in Istanbul falls within the three countries' joint coordination effort for the sake of bolstering security, peace, and stability in the region. The meeting is a followup to previous efforts that were crystallized at the Tehran meeting of 7 June 1993, which produced important positive results strengthenbing cooperation and mutual understanding and tackling conditions in the border areas with Iraq.

In this regard, the conferees attached special importance to the situation in northern and southern Iraq, affirming their countries' commitment to the unity and safety of Iraqi territories for the sake of the region's peace and stability, and also in order to get rid of the negative effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which not only caused great damage to Iraq and Kuwait, but also adversely affected neighboring countries.

Iraq, including both the northern and southern parts, is still going through an anomalous, unstable situation due to its invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent burdens—hence the call of the foreign ministers of the three countries urging the Iraqi Government to cancel all restrictions and measures against Iraqi citizens, which would help the return to a normal situation of security, stability, and peace. It would also help foil all plans and efforts to divide Iraq and disintegrate its unity.

It is understood that the unity of Iraqi territories and the necessity to safeguard it from any divisions or disintegration constitute a major factor, in fact, an indispensable condition, for the security, peace, and stability of the region as well as the unity of Iraqi territories. Above all, it is a national and pan- Arab necessity dictated by the interests of the Iraqi people and the entire Arab nation. Disintegration or division, as often affirmed by Syria, has never been the method to resolve any problem no matter how complicated on the regional level.

Therefore, the Iraqi people, despite all the circumstances they are going through, are called upon to affirm the unity and integrity of their territories. This is a general popular desire on Iraqi, Arab, and regional levels. As noted in the statement issued by the Istanbul meeting, the future of Iraq will be determined by the free will of the Iraqis on the basis of equality, democracy, and good neighborly relations.

Press Views Upcoming Washington Talks With Israel

JN1402084194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Editorializing on the Washington talks, TISHRIN says: The bilateral talks between the heads of delegations are due to resume in Washington tomorrow. The talks were suspended for one week at the request of the Israeli side to hold consultations with its government. The nature of these consultations and their results are still not clear. However, it is clear that Israel recessed the peace talks in order to cover up its intransigent, maneuvering stands. Israel also wants to prolong these talks to give the impression that it is serious about reaching ideas and views to discuss the question of peace and its requirements.

TISHRIN adds: Since the suspension of the talks, Israel has not said anything signaling that the Israeli side has come up with anything new or that it has changed its familiar stand and abandoned its conditions and obstacles. On the contrary, all indications are that Israel still adheres to everything that is far from achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Also, Israel is still committed to sabotaging the peace process. No Israeli official has said anything that inspires optimism and hope for real progress in the Washington talks.

TISHRIN goes on: Israel has cast doubt on the results of the talks even before they start. Several Israeli officials have said the talks will be unproductive, just like all the

other previous rounds and sessions that have been revolving in a vicious circle since the Madrid conference. The only new thing that Israel has come up with is the old, familiar tune repeated by its Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres when he said: The talks between Syria and Israel should be upgraded. This discordant Israeli tune cannot fool anybody. Israel's previous discordant tune—arguing that secret talks alone can produce positive results to advance the peace process—could not fool anybody either.

The paper says the secret Oslo talks revealed that the aim Israel seeks behind the talks is to take on each Arab party on its own so that it can easily blackmail it and drive it to make more concessions. The purpose of this is to defeat the Madrid formula and evade its foundations and terms.

Since Syria is perfectly aware of Israel's malicious objectives and premeditated intentions, and stemming from a comprehensive pan- Arab perspective, Syria has firmly and proudly rejected Israeli suggestions and claims. Syria has asserted that the one who is concerned about peace would also be eager to maintain the foundations on which the peace process was launched, particularly in terms of a comprehensive solution, clear position, just cause, and that peace is impossible along with occupation, not even some or part of this occupation. This is because peace can only be achieved through real, serious implementation of the resolutions of international legitir. acy.

TISHRIN concludes: There can be no peace without the Arabs regaining their territories in full. This will enable the region to start an age of stability and prosperity, end tension, explosions, disasters, wars, and calamities.

Under the headline "Partial Solutions Are Not the Alternative," AL-BA'TH says: The bilateral peace talks are expected to resume in Washington tomorrow amid an atmosphere that does not inspire optimism. Israel has once again attempted to reshuffle cards in line with its rejection of peace and its policy to take on the Arab parties one at a time, resulting in the Oslo and Cairo accords.

AL-BA'TH adds that this policy aims at fragmenting the Palestine question, in fact the Arab-Israeli conflict, to impose surrender on the Arabs and Zionist hegemony on the region. Israel has found a party that responds to it by making endless concessions. This encouraged the Rabin government to show more intransigence whenever it achieves a breakthrough that serves its purposes. The best evidence of this is Israel's demand that representation on the Syrian track be upgraded, or else emphasizing that it has no wish to go any further on this track.

This position, though old, has come on the heels of the Cairo agreement. We do not know what new position the Rabin government will come up with after whatever agreement. This is because the talks between Israel and the party that claims to be representing the Palestinian people are not over yet. The two parties need a series of agreements to implement the Oslo accord of capitulation.

AL-BA'TH adds that Israel is still deliberately seeking to steer clear of the principles that call for a just and comprehensive solution in the region. This approach, with all its attempts to reshuffle cards, is impossible to continue forever, since a just and comprehensive peace is an international demand, as well as a regional and Arab demand.

Belgian Trade Minister Views Bilateral Ties

JN1202201494 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 10

[Excerpts] Robert Urbain, Belgium's foreign trade minister, visited Damascus from 24 to 26 January. On the sidelines of the visit, TISHRIN held a lengthy interview with Urbain in which he responded to the editor's questions on Syrian-Belgian relations and prospects for developing them. [passage omitted]

Urbain said: I would like to note that my visit to Syria came a bit later than scheduled. The visit was supposed to take place at the end of last year, but we had to postpone it until the beginning of this year due to my heavy schedule.

The visit seeks to bolster bilateral relations and increase cooperation to serve common interests. We will analyze and evaluate the current status of bilateral relations and see how they have been developing, especialzly now that there is peace process in the region.

Urbain added: I believe that although the level of bilateral relations is not great, it is constant. Our exports to Syria totaled $100 million. Our exports included food products, minerals, and chemical substances. Meanwhile, our imports from Syria totaled $12 million. Foremost among these imports were textiles and oil.

I would like to note that proceeding from this fact and in light of the positive developments in the Syrian economy—especially after the issuance of a law to promote investment—and the growing role of the private sector, Belgian businessmen and project owners are willing to establish cooperation relations with Syria.

We, in the Belgian-Luxembourg union [as published], support Belgian companies' participation in joint projects with Syria.

On the level of cooperation between the two governments, Urbain said: We are highly concerned with the priorities of the Syrian authorities in terms of what Belgium can offer as far as implementing infrastructure projects, including electricity projects.

We will soon sign an agreement for technical, economic, and technological cooperation. I would like to note that the signing of the agreement has been delayed for purely technical reasons, especially on Luxembourg's part.

We seek to sign an agreement between Syria and the Belgian-Luxembourg union to encourage and protect investments on both sides. I believe there is a need to sign such an agreement.

Urbain continued: Belgium is a member of the European Union [EU]. Cooperation between Syria and the EU is the framework that defines Belgium's relations with Syria. Syria and the EU have signed several agreements. In 1977, a third protocol for technical and financial cooperation, amounting to 146 million European Currency Units [ECU], was signed with the EC. In 1992, a fourth protocol, amounting to 158 ECU's, was signed. The protocol includes technical and financial aid to support the Syrian Government's efforts in the energy and health sectors, as well as other infrastructure projects. It also includes grants to prepare and train cadres.

On prospects for promoting future relations between the two countries, Urbain said: I believe that trade relations are a question of needs and requirements. We are ready to help Syria export more commodities to the EU states. The EU is a very large market with a population of over 340 million. It is important to promote relations between the two countries and to provide an appropriate atmosphere for that purpose. The nonexistence of Belgian investments in Syria is linked to this issue. Therefore, I raised the need for signing a bilateral agreement to protect and encourage investment.

He added: There are broad investment fields in Syria. The Syrian Government's measures are useful. I hope that these measures will be enforced. We hope the peace process will reflect positively on the regional states. I would like to point out that the EU called for the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East. It also supported the principle of land for peace.

Urbain continued: The international interest in peace in the region and the international community's will to establish peace in the Middle East have been greatly boosted by the outcome of the very important meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in Geneva. That meeting gave peace efforts a new momentum.

Before moving to discuss the problems facing some Belgian cabinet members, Urbain stressed that Belgium will present specific proposals to bolster cooperation between the financial and monetary institutions in both countries. He expressed the Belgian Government's readiness to organize seminars in Belgium in cooperation with Syria to explain many economic issues about Syria and to increase the Syrian exports to the EU. [passage omitted]

Iran

Daily Says Country Mobilizing Groups for 'Missions'

OW1402055694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb. 14 KYODO—Iran is attempting to mobilize the Japanese Red Army and Islamic guerrilla groups for joint assassination missions and other terrorist acts in the United States and Europe, a pro-Jordanian daily in Jerusalem reported Sunday.

The Red Army and several Islamic guerrilla groups met several weeks ago at the Teheran headquarters of the Iranian intelligence service, the Arab-language AN-NAHAR said quoting intelligence organs in several European countries.

The dispatch from Paris said Iran is hoping to disrupt the Middle East peace talks because it fears isolation should they be successful.

Tehran also appears to believe that one aim of the talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is to destabilize Iran, according to the paper.

The Islamic groups attending the meeting included Hizbollah, a Lebanon-based militant Shiite faction, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, an extremist group operating outside the PLO, the report said.

The meeting was also attended by high-ranking officials from the Iranian intelligence service and Iran's revolution guard corps, the report said.

The paper said Iran's revolution guard corps has trained the Japanese Red Army in Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and the Iranian Embassy in Beirut has helped Red Army members travel between Iran and Lebanon.

The Red Army, formed in 1971, was responsible for a series of hijacking and armed attacks in the 1970s, including the 1972 massacre at Lod International Airport in Tel Aviv.

President, Envoys Meet on Revolution's Anniversary

LD1002122894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign ambassadors and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations in Iran today were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our reporter sent us this report:

[Unidentified reporter] During the meeting, the president said that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on strengthening friendship and cooperation and the establishment of friendly relations with all countries, with the exception of the regime occupying Jerusalem and America. He said: We are strongly against regional crises and wars, and we are prepared to cooperate with international organizations and peace loving nations of the world in order to eliminate centers of crisis.

Condemning America's hostile policy toward Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: America has never been able to comprehend the realities of the Islamic revolution of Iran and is still living in the past when she regarded herself the master of this country. Therefore, the Iranian people will confront America's hostile policies with firmness and strength and will never compromise with that kind of thinking.

He described the regime occupying Jerusalem as an illegitimate and imposed regime and added: Israel is not seeking a peace that guarantees the legitimate rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. One cannot support the so-called peace talks as long as the destiny of millions of Palestinian refugees is not clarified.

The president described the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran in 1979 as being due to the justice seeking and antityrannical attitude of the Iranian people. He said: If we are witnessing the deterioration of values and principles and of human and international norms in many parts of the world today, this is due to deviations from the pure and peace loving nature of the nations of the world.

Enumerating examples of corruption and injustice during the era of Iran's former lackey regime, its collusion with unjust international policies, and its dependent foreign policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: All members of Iranian society—with unprecedented unity and through reliance upon the call of their spiritual nature [fetrat] and by following the wise leadership of their religious leader—rose up against tyranny and injustice. They have paid a very heavy price thus far in order to achieve victory and to safeguard their gains. They are also prepared to continue paying the price of their independence and freedom in the future.

Referring to the progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the era of reconstruction, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A serious effort is continuing in Iran to reconstruct and repair all of the losses inflicted and the backwardness. The most important engineering projects and basic measures—including roads, power generators, ports, transportation, railways, the discovery and transfer of oil and gas, and agriculture—are being implemented with great speed by the hands of domestic experts and by using domestic equipment and material. Great success has already been achieved in these fields.

Referring to regional and international crises, especially the bitter and painful events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the president criticized the positions of international organizations. He said: Despite the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to send 10,000 peacekeeping forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina, this offer was rejected with the excuse of maintaining impartiality. At the moment, the

Serbs are free to commit any crime, and the world stops at only condemning these crimes.

He stressed: The required seriousness toward defending oppressed peoples does not exist in the centers of power in the world. One should expect all the governments and nations to hold hands and to prevent so much tyranny and injustice.

Addressing the foreign ambassadors, diplomatic representatives, and delegations from international organizations based in Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: I ask you—as representatives who live in the Islamic Republic of Iran and witness our people's political and cultural maturity, as well as our country's development and progress—to fulfill what we expect from you. I ask you to convey the realities to the people of your respective countries, thereby making the world public aware of these realities. In this way, the foundations for establishing international and regional peace and stability will be laid down.

The president then referred to the loyalty of the people of Iran to the Islamic revolution and to the continued presence of the nation in different arenas. He said: You, as foreign diplomats based in Tehran, will witness the extensive presence of the various strata of people in the rallies tomorrow, 11 February. You will witness that even after the passage of 15 years, and despite enduring difficulties and hardship brought about by the imposed war and the process of reconstruction, our people are not prepared to allow the realities of their lives to be brought under the influence of negative and disheartening rumors and insinuations. He added: This shows the people's awareness and maturity on the one hand, and the failure of the imperialist media in attaining their inauspicious objectives, on the other hand.

According to a Central News Unit report, before remarks by the president, the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Libya [as heard] in Tehran spoke on behalf of the ambassadors as their doyen. During the course of his remarks, he congratulated the eminent leader, the president, and the revolutionary and liberated nation of Iran on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said: We pay our respects to the lofty status of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revered martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Iran's independence and freedom. We convey our respect to the blessed souls of these dear ones and hope that the Islamic Republic system and the heroic nation of Iran may always be able to achieve progress and success in reconstruction and development. The Libyan ambassador then condemned the plot to assassinate the president of our country and wished him health and success.

On the basis of this report, at the end of this audience, the ambassadors, diplomats, and the Iran-based representatives of foreign countries and international organizations held separate meetings with the president. During the course of their brief exchanges, they expressed their congratulations on the anniversary of victory of the Islamic revolution.

Minister Comments on Arrest of Assassination Suspects

NC1302095694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 7 Feb 94 pp 1,3

[Text] Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam who was speaking in an exclusive interview with HAMSHAHRI, revealed some facts about the foiled assassination attempt against the president on 1 February in the shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian said: The person who intended to assassinate the president was Kurosh Nik-Akhtar whose surname used to be Kamare'i in the past.

The information minister said: In addition to arresting Kurosh Nik-Akhtar, who was apprehended because of the full awareness and prompt action of our courageous people on 1 February, a large network of his accomplices and cohorts have been identified and arrested.

According to the information minister, more than 20 members of this network's nucleus who were either aware of the assassination plan or who cooperated with the terrorist have been arrested. The information minister added: During the preliminary questionings, all the people who were arrested confessed their ominous and counterrevolutionary objectives. These confessions have shown that most members of the group were involved in many immoral and corrupt acts.

The general decision of the terrorists was to start shouting antistate and apparently revolutionary slogans in order to attract the attention of public opinion and to justify their counterrevolutionary movement by distracting the people. They intended to propagate their blind ideas in order to impress the Muslim nation with their terrorist act and to spread public mistrust toward high-ranking pious, revolutionary, and hardworking elements.

The information minister also stated that in order to ensure that the assassination plot would be as successful as possible, the suspects had held a coordination meeting the night before the attempt and had discussed the details of the plan.

The information minister said: There are persons among those who were arrested who were affiliated with atheist leftist groups and have a criminal record.

The criminal records and confessions by the suspects have shown to also have a record of drunkenness, moral corruption, and addiction.

Velayati Appoints First Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1402140294 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday appointed Mohammad Hashemi as his first deputy. Hashemi has served as head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) for the past 13 years.

In a decree on Sunday, leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i appointed former Islamic Guidance Minister 'Ali Larijani as the new IRIB head.

UN Envoy Comments on Bosnian Serbs, NATO Air Strikes

LD1502085594 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, Feb. 15, IRNA—Iran's envoy to the United Nations Monday stressed that in case Serb forces refused to observe the NATO deadline, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must implement its threats against the Serbs.

Following the Serbs shelling of a trade center in Sarajevo in late January which claimed the lives of 68 people and over 200 others were wounded, in a 10-day deadline last Wednesday the NATO urged the Serbs to withdraw their heavy arms from the vicinity of Sarajevo. It warned that in case the Serbs refrained from doing so NATO forces would strike them by air.

Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in his remarks at the open session of the Security Council said that the recent moves to lift the seige of Sarajevo fell short of expectations.

He stressed that overall efforts should be made to ensure that all provisions of the ultimatum are met by the Serbs.

"In the event the ultimatum is violated, either through further shelling or failure to fully withdraw the Serbian heavy weaponry by the deadline, the air strikes must be automatically initiated," he said.

Kharrazi called on Security Council to allow Bosnia and those prepared to help the beseiged republic to take action under Article 51 of the UN Charter in individual and collective self-defence.

"Under the present circumstances, the least the international community can do is to lift the siege of Sarajevo and other cities and to lift the unjust arms embargo against the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

He voiced concern over the efforts made by some powers to press the Bosnian Government to accept a so-called peace saying that it "will be the beginning of a more tragedy and ethnic cleansing."

He stressed that imposition of any settlement on the Bosnian Government would be "militarily unenforceable and morally unacceptable to the international community."

President Appoints New Islamic Guidance Minister

LD1502074794 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a letter to Majles speaker here Tuesday introduced Mostafa Mirsalim as the new minister of culture and islamic guidance.

The proposal is in compliance with Article 133 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mirsalim replaces 'Ali Larijani who last Sunday was appointed by leader of the islamic revolution as the new head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

Born in 1947, Mirsalim received his post-graduate degree in mechanics in Paris in 1972.

He was an active member of the Islamic association of Iranian students both at home and abroad for which he was arrested and imprisoned several times by security forces.

Mirsalim has previously served in various state posts such as first deputy interior minister, supreme presidential advisor, member of the high council of cultural revolution as well as the council's secretary.

He is married and has three children.

Consulate in Lahore Denies Involvement With Shooting

LD1402070094 Tehran IRNA in English 0514 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Islamabad, Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—The Iranian consulate in Lahore denied any involvement of the Iranian diplomats in the shooting at the leaders of the Wahhabi Sahabeh Corps in the city.

In a press release 13 February, the consulate said that the charges leveled in the complaint of a particular group against the Iranian diplomats were totally baseless and unfounded.

It also added, "Iran is against any kind of interference in the internal affairs of other countries."

Two leaders of the Wahhabi Sahabeh corps were shot and wounded by unidentified persons in Lahore Friday.

Paper Assesses Nuclear Deal With Spanish Company

PM1402165494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Walid Abi-Murshid: "After Failure of Its Endeavors With German Siemens And Czech Skoda, Iran Is Concluding Contract With Spanish Nuclear Company To Divert Two Reactors to Military Use"]

[Text] London—Tehran is currently negotiating with a Spanish company for engineers and nuclear technology to supply it with the technology needed to divert four nuclear reactors in Iran from civilian to military use.

Iran turned to a Spanish company to supply it with the diversion technology known as "Diversion" [preceding word in English] after it failed in the past to obtain this technology from the German company Siemens and the Czech company Skoda. Iran accuses the German and Czech companies of submitting to U.S. pressure in their withdrawal from the project to offer their nuclear engineering services. As is known, the Spanish company dealt in the past with the German company Siemens and it has the nuclear engineering expertise available to the German company. The Spanish company participated with Siemens in building the Bushehr reactors in Iran.

After the failure of its previous attempts to obtain Western diversion technology, which is more advanced than Russian and Chinese technology, Tehran was eager to submit its new order for Spanish technology in the framework of its endeavors to improve safety levels for the two nuclear reactors it is building with Russian expertise in Gargar and the two reactors (300 megawatts) it is building with Chinese expertise in al-Ahvaz.

Nearly a month ago the Iranian Nuclear Energy Commission signed a contract with the Spanish company, under which the latter undertakes to provide engineering services for one of the two Chinese reactors in al-Ahvaz , and a similar contract to provide the same services for the the Russian Bushehr reactor, after signing a contract with the Russians to rebuild it. The deal concluded with the Spanish company totals $80 million.

In the first stage Iran hopes that the Spanish company will resume building the Bushehr reactor, 80 percent of which has been completed, before the German company Siemens pulls out of the project.

As is known, the capacity of this reactor is 1,000 megawatts.

However, Tehran expects now to obtain technology from Spain to divert the Bushehr and Gargar reactors from civilian to military use.

Tehran's great interest in these negotiations is reflected in the level of its negotiating delegation, which is headed by Reza Amrollahi [as transliterated], assistant to President Rafsanjani for nuclear affairs and chairman of the Iranian Nuclear Energy Commission, his deputy Mahir 'Alizadeh, and Mohammad Kazem Rasuli, director of the Nuclear Technological Center in Esfahan (ENTC).

In charge of the negotiations from the Spanish side are the director general of the Spanish company and his assistant. The director general of the Spanish company participated with Siemens in building the Bushehr reactor.

It is worth mentioning that 300-megawatt nuclear reactors are technologically capable of being diverted from civilian to military use.

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